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Near East & South Asia

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EC Document Outlines Regional Cooperation

TA2710180093 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 27 Oct 93 p 7

[Text]

First Exposure The EC Commission has sent a special document to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The document's headline reads: "The Process of Cooperation Between the Mashriq Countries [eastern, in Arabic; to differentiate from the Maghreb countries of North Africa] (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the territories) and Israel." In it, the European politicians suggest:

- " A free trade zone, encompassing the 120 million residents of the Mashriq countries and Israel, should be established within five to 10 years."
- "The EEC can offer the Mashriq countries a free trade zone of industrial products, similar to the one it has with Israel."
- "So far, only 10 percent of the capital of the wealthy Arab oil countries has been invested in poor Arab countries in the region.

"This must change, upon the inception of political stability and improved economic performance."

"Constructing railroads from Persian Gulf countries to the Mashriq and Israel would not be economically worth it. At the same time, connecting Israel with the Mashriq countries, and the entire region with Europe through Turkey, would be a correct economic move. Such a network of highways and railroads can be completed by the year 2010."

"The Palestinians are not advised to spent billions of dollars on constructing sea and airports. They should be allowed free access to Israeli and Jordanian ports."

"Connecting the electricity grids of the entire region would be economically logical."

"The tapline should and could be reopened through to the Haifa Port extension, to run oil from Saudi Arabia. A small investment of $75 million would suffice."

"The Egyptian gas pipe to Israel will be extended to Israel and the territories. Later on, natural gas from the Persian Gulf countries will be imported to Israel and the territories."

"Establishing a Middle East tourism authority, for the promotion of tourism, shared by all the regional tourism bureaus would be highly advisable. The number of tourists coming to the Mashriq and Israel could reach a total of 10 million per annum."

"The immediate solution for the water problem: The Palestinian authorities would buy a share of the ownership (capital stake) [last two words printed in English] of Meqorot, the Israeli water company, which would extend its operations to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and sell the water to Israelis and Palestinians, indiscriminately and on an economic basis."

Arab-Israeli Talks

Gaza-Jericho Meetings Conclude, To Resume 1 Nov

Sha'th Views Progress of Negotiations

NC2810111893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 28 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, has stated that on Monday [1 November] Israel will submit a complete plan for a full withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho under the peace agreement signed between the two sides in Washington last month.

In an interview with MENA, Dr. Sha'th said the Israeli side also promised to submit a timetable for the release of all Palestinian and Arab detainees in Israeli prisons. These prisoners will be released by the time the Committee concludes its meetings in December. Sha'th noted that the head of the Israeli side on the Detainees Subcommittee has told him that he has a programmed plan for an organized and automatic release of the prisoners, which he will submit to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for approval. The Israeli official will submit this plan at the next meeting of the Committee.

Sha'th noted that the recent killing of two Israeli soldiers in Gaza has delayed the release of 130 Hamas detainees whom Israel actually agreed to release in the first group of detainees recently freed.

Sha'th criticized the members of the Israeli delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, saying that they were not prepared to discuss the details of the withdrawal and the transfer of authority during the previous three rounds held over the past two weeks. They were not prepared to discuss these issues until yesterday, when they submitted some papers on the implementation of the agreement. He noted that the security paper that they submitted yesterday was an old one that had been superseded by events and that it caused several problems between the two sides.

Sha'th said that the withdrawal should take place by 10 December and that the Palestinian side is not responsible for any delay. He said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent statements that the withdrawal will be implemented within two months is a result of the Israeli side not being properly prepared for the talks. The Israelis are responsible for any delay.

Sha'th noted that the Palestinian side is prepared to take over authority on the scheduled date. The Palestinian forces are capable of securing and running the liberated areas once they receive them. A comprehensive plan on this matter was drawn up four months ago.

Sha'th said that he does not want to believe that the Israeli side is deliberately procrastinating and delaying the negotiating process. He believes the members of the Israeli side are preoccupied with their executive jobs in Israel while the Palestinian side is completely devoted to the negotiating process until the agreement is implemented. Sha'th noted that Shahaq [head of the Israeli side] himself signed the orders for the release of the detainees and supervised the investigation into the killing of the two soldiers. Shahaq also attends Israeli cabinet meetings.

Dr. Sha'th affirmed that the ongoing negotiations in the Gaza-Jericho Committee are different from the Camp David talks in terms of the withdrawal timetable determined by the Declaration of Principles. He pointed out that the talks with the Israeli side have been divided into three phases. The first is very urgent and short term and involves full withdrawal and the transfer of authority within four months.

He explained that the second phase is an intermediate one and involves withdrawal from the remaining parts of the West Bank by July. The third is a long-term phase that spans two years, during which Jerusalem, the settlements, the return of the 1948 refugees will be negotiated.

Dr. Sha'th stated that the Palestinians insist on Eastern Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian state. He added that during the third phase of withdrawal, all the institutions in Jerusalem will belong to the Palestinians, who will be entitled to run in the national council elections, and vote in them. This will establish the actual link among the Palestinian inhabitants of Jerusalem, he said.

On seeking the help of UN or multinational forces in safeguarding the liberated areas and supervising traffic across bridges and crossing points, Dr. Sha'th pointed out that the agreement addresses that point clearly, and that President 'Arafat had requested that arrangement from UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali when the agreement was signed. He remarked that the issue was raised during the meetings of the Gaza-Jericho Committee and that the Israeli side objected to it.

Replying to a question on conflicting statements about the number of detainees and Israel's plan to release them, Dr. Sha'th said discussions with the Israeli side start with goodwill and end in blackmail. He reiterated that the Palestinian side rejects any blackmail or stalling in this matter. He reiterated also that he rejects any discrimination between detainees on the basis of their affiliations or charges.

He said that the Israeli side has admitted after discussion that they have 10,000 Palestinian political prisoners. He noted that the only crime the majority of these prisoners committed was belonging to the PLO, flying the Palestinian flag, or participating in demonstrations against the occupation. He pointed out that the charges for which these prisoners were held became null and void once Israel recognized the PLO in the Washington agreement and the Palestinian flag was raised everywhere.

Dr. Sha'th explained that the first group of detainees was released for purely humanitarian reasons; old people, people under 18 years of age, women, and sick people. He remarked that some humanitarian cases are still under detention, adding that the detainees who have served over two thirds of their sentence, have served over 10 years, or who were arrested administratively will be released soon in accordance with the timetable the Israeli side will provide.

Regarding the Israeli settlements in Gaza and Jericho, Dr. Sha'th said that this is the main problem. There is a natural evacuation of some of them. Most of these settlements are located in Gush Qatif between Dayr al-Balah and the sea. He added that the presence of these settlements creates a problem bigger than the withdrawal. The Palestinian side has emphasized the need for a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho while the Israeli side wants security for the inhabitants of these settlements. He noted that negotiations are under way on this problem.

On the measures for the transfer of authority in Gaza and Jericho to the Palestinians, Sha'th said that the subcommittee specializing in this subject has made great progress. The Israelis realize that full authority will be transferred to the Palestinians. There is no problem. He said that there are also no problems with about 28 special departments dealing with education, health, tourism, land registration, and awqaf and other civilian departments. He noted that some services, like telephone and the post, need technical assistance during the transfer of authority. He said that we are currently contacting the world post to establish an independent postal system. The telephone service will also be transferred from the Israeli authority to the Palestinian authority. We are also discussing with Egyptian and Jordanian officials linking the electrical network of Palestine with Egypt and Jordan, as well as other technical matters.

Answering a question on some Palestinian factions' opposition to the peace agreement with Israel and on Hamas' stand on the agreement, Sha'th said the Palestinian opposition expresses its view freely and democratically. This is its right. It is our duty to protect its views. The opposition also has the right to participate in the coming elections. He added that the Hamas members have behaved reasonably and have not resorted to violence so far. The apprehensions expressed by some Arab states opposed to the agreement that Palestinian massacres will occur are groundless.

Sha'th said the Palestinian opposition inside is political and is making efforts to avoid Palestinian fratricide. Everyone has the right to freely express his view of the agreement. He denied that retaliatory measures have been taken against some Palestinian figures opposed to the agreement. He said everyone is working to establish an independent Palestinian state and end the state of war that has lasted for over half a century.

Sha'th on Talks, Gaza Assassinations

TA2810202593 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Oct 93 pp 1, 7

[Excerpts] In a telephone contact by our correspondent Nasir Najib with Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, Sha'th said: Progress in the talks is still slow, because the subcommittees began their work only two days ago despite the fact that only eight members from the Israeli side attended. Yesterday, however, 40 members attended.

Sha'th said that the Palestinian side was totally prepared since meeting last week with all the members of the subcommittees. He added: I can say that some progress has been achieved in the preparations for the transfer of national civilian authority. There are no difficulties. Work is moving ahead speedily over this issue. There are national committees in Gaza and Jericho that are working to take over power. As far as the Security Subcommittee is concerned, actually it began its work only today [27 October]. At the beginning, agreement was reached over its agenda. The subcommittee is now discussing the timetable for Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. Next Monday has been set for presenting and discussing the withdrawal plan.

As for the release of Palestinian prisoners, Sha'th said that discussion was held with the Israeli side about the reasons for not releasing the 130 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad prisoners in the wake of the murder of the two Israeli soldiers.

Sha'th added: We do not accept this practice. We are totally insisting that all the prisoners be released without discrimination. We see no reason for not releasing the other brothers over whom agreement was reached, be they children, women, or old people.

Sha'th added that the discussion over this issue produced a positive result in that a timetable was drawn up for the automatic release of all the prisoners, starting at the beginning of next week and lasting until 13 December. [passage omitted]

With regard to control over the border crossing points in Jericho and Gaza, Sha'th said: The general meeting between the Palestinian and Israeli sides has begun discussion of this issue. It is one of the issues that requires effort and time. We are insisting that those crossing points be under complete Palestinian control. This means real Israeli withdrawal from those two areas. Our position is based on the agreement signed between the two sides.

On the possibility that Israel withdrawal might be postponed from the date set, Sha'th said: The Palestinian side and teams are ready and preparations for a police force are in place. As far as we are concerned, we see no reason for delay or postponement.

Sha'th said that the Palestinian negotiating team enjoys immense competence and expertise. There are specialized experts in Gaza and Jericho who are ready to take over the national authority. In addition, there are also Palestinians with capabilities abroad.

On the recent assassinations in the Gaza Strip, Sha'th said that this issue was discussed with the Israeli side. We asked to receive all the information available to Israel. He added: Israel is responsible for the safety of our residents and leadership in Gaza.

Sha'th said that he relayed to the Israeli side the Palestinian concern over what is happening in this period. He pointed out that the recent assassinations were planned and had no connection with our people and their organizations which are operating in Gaza.

Sha'th added: These crimes are being perpetrated in Gaza by the use of guns with silencers and through certain circumstances, not by youths who are angry or opposed. The crimes were planned by professional killers and have no connection with our people's youths. We are asking Israel to provide us with the results of its investigation of these crimes. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Police Force Discussed

NC2810130393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1147 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 28 Oct (MENA)—Major General Nasr Yusuf, head of the Palestinian side to the Security Subcommittee formed by the Gaza-Jericho Committee, stated that the Palestinian police force is ready to undertake its security tasks in Gaza and Jericho as soon as the Israeli forces withdraw from these areas.

In a statement he made to MENA after the subcommittee met in Taba today, he said that there was an exchange of views on the plan for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the areas that will be evacuated, especially in Gaza. He added that the subcommittee also discussed plans to deploy the Palestinian forces in the liberated areas in the coming stage and the transfer of authority to the Palestinian side. He noted that the Palestinian and Israeli sides will continue their discussion of these issues at the subcommittee's meeting on Monday.

Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf refused to divulge the size of the Palestinian force that will be responsible for security in Gaza and Jericho, saying that this issue is still under discussion with the Israeli side. He added that today the Israeli side presented its views on the process of gradual withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. He said that the Palestinian side also presented plans for the Palestinian police force's deployment in various areas of Gaza and Jericho.

The Palestinian official stressed that there will be an adequate number of Palestinian policemen to maintain security and that this force has been trained to carry out its duty very efficiently.

Subcommittees Wrap Up Meetings

TA2810144893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] The negotiations at Taba have practically ended after the subcommittee on confidence-building measures concluded its discussions without deciding on any further release of prisoners in the near future. One of the Palestinian delegates said that the discussions on prisoner release were put off till next week. Our correspondent Udi Segal reports from Taba:

[Begin recording] [Segal] The discussions are over. The negotiations are almost concluded. The Civilian Affairs Subcommittee, which is discussing the transfer of authorities, is still holding a final, short debate decided upon during lunch. The delegates are still discussing the priorities of the various offices whose powers will be turned over to the Palestinians next week, when discussions on this matter are held. The Security Subcommittee, which dealt with issues related to the Palestinian police, concluded its discussions this afternoon, but there were no details on the number of policemen demanded by the Palestinians. The final decision on the size of the police forces was also deferred until next week. The subcommittee on confidence-building measures held a short meeting, and the debate on the release of additional Palestinian prisoners was put off until next week. The Palestinians nevertheless seemed pleased. They said that it had been agreed upon that the release of prisoners would be a continuous and gradual process. This was already agreed upon in the first meeting with the Israelis. This was how Israeli spokesman 'Ami Gluska summed up the current round of talks:

[Gluska] I think it ended successfully. We are leaving with positive feelings and with the sense that we have taken the first steps on a path that will lead to practical discussions on a number of issues that have already been determined, as well as on a number of categories that have yet to be defined. Our general feeling is definitely positive.

[Segal] Was the discussion on further prisoner releases put off till next week with the mutual agreement of both the Israeli and Palestinian delegates?

[Gluska] The discussion was not postponed. The discussion began today, and it will continue next week.

[Segal] Many of the Israeli delegates are already on their way to the Elat airport in order to fly back to Jerusalem, where they will continue their consultations prior to the fourth round of talks in Taba. [end recording]

Detainees' Subcommittee To Meet 1 Nov

NC2810151593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1419 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 28 Oct (MENA)—Ziyad Abu-Ziyad, head of the Palestinian side of the Detainees' Subcommittee of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, has stated that the Palestinian side will submit a list of the names of Palestinian deportees abroad to secure their gradual return to their homes. Abu-Ziyad said that this list will be submitted at the next meeting, to be held on Monday [1 November].

In remarks to MENA following the subcommittee's meeting here today, Abu-Ziyad added that the two sides had discussed the timetable for the release of the Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons and the return of the deportees. He pointed out that details of their release will be examined at the next meeting.

Meanwhile, Ami Gloska [name as received], official spokesman of the Israeli delegation to the subcommittee, has stated that the question of the release of Palestinian detainees in Israel dominated the discussion during the meeting, adding that the Palestinian side stressed the need for the release of all detainees.

In remarks to journalists, the spokesman stated that no agreement had been reached on changing the venue of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, adding that the committee will resume its meetings in Taba on Monday.

Civil Affairs Agreement Reached

TA2810191893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] In the Taba subcommittee dealing with civilian affairs it was agreed that a list be prepared of 11 Civil Administration departments to be transferred to the Palestinians, which will be discussed at next week's talks. The first three issues are the Religious Affairs Ministry, the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry, and the Transportation Ministry. In the confidence-building subcommittee it was decided to prepare a long-range plan to release prisoners and bring back deportees soon. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, said he hopes that more prisoners will be freed in the wake of the plan.

[Begin Sha'th recording, in English] I want them to be released now, but they discussed, I think—as I told you—a longer-term plan of release of prisoners and return of deportees. If the long term plan brings greater release than otherwise, then one can wait a little bit. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 28 October adds: "When the talks resume next week, the Palestinians will present the first list of some 200 deportees they want returned to the territories. A member of the Palestinian delegation said that the PLO wants to set up a police force of 20,000 to 25,000-strong composed of three groups—a regular police force, a security police, and a sort of general security service. The head of the Israeli delegation said the third round of talks was very important and that many misunderstandings were lifted."]

Sha'th: 'Eventual Amnesty' for 10,000

TA2910120293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] The head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks says Israel has agreed to an eventual amnesty for up to 10,000 jailed Palestinians, including some it had said would stay in prison because they had committed violent acts. Nabil Sha'th said that between 600 to 800 prisoners, who Israel has said would be kept in jail because they had committed violent acts, would only be freed once Palestinians took over the self-rule areas. Sha'th also said about 40 prisoners would be freed today or tomorrow. He said they were being freed because they fit into the same categories as those released on Monday.

In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Sha'th said that progress was made at the latest round of talks.

[Begin Sha'th recording, in English] Next Monday, we will have a full presentation by the Israeli side of the withdrawal plan for the military side, for the security side. Whereas for the civilian side, the committee for civilian transfer of authority has started and will continue next week. We made, I think, a little breakthrough when we got a commitment that instead of bargaining each time about a certain number, that we should agree on a longer term schedule for release. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

No Letup in Intifadah Before Israeli Pullout

JN2910085393 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers: The triumphant Palestinian intifadah will continue as long as the Israeli occupation continues to exist. The Palestinian intifadah will not halt before the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the occupied Palestinian territories. This is not a slogan. It is a clear fact with daily manifestations on the ground. At the same time, it is a legitimate Palestinian right recognized by the norms and principles of international legitimacy. The glorious intifadah is a form of legitimate national struggle against the occupation. Hence, it is natural for it to continue until the removal of all forms of occupation from the territories of the Palestinian state.

From this premise, let the commanders and generals of the Israeli occupation abandon the illusion of halting the activities of the glorious Palestinian intifadah before the withdrawal of their soldiers and forces from the Palestinian territories and before dismantling and removing the pillars of their malicious authority from these territories.

Yes, when the last Israeli soldier withdraws from the territories of the Palestinian state, matters will then be different. This is because the intifadah in itself is a means and not an end. It is a legitimate means of struggle to end the Israeli occupation. When this occupation is ended, all Palestinian potentials and efforts will be pooled toward promoting the construction of the edifice of Palestinian national independence. Until that day, which will never be far away—God willing—with the determination, will, and persistence of our proud people, the struggle will continue. The intifadah will continue until great Palestinian victory is fully achieved and until the withdrawal of the occupation forces from all the Palestinian territories—the territories of our state whose realization is inevitable.

'Heroes' Attack Israeli Targets

JN2910074493 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The intifadah heroes have attacked the headquarters of the Israeli military governor in Tulkarm with machine guns. Three of the headquarter's guards sustained various wounds. An Israeli military spokesman admitted the attack. He said that following the attack, reinforced military forces began a large-scale combing campaign after closing and cordoning off the area.

In Hebron, the intifadah heroes threw two molotov cocktails at an Israeli military patrol car while it was passing through one of the city's streets. Fire broke out in the car and those inside it sustained various burns and wounds. Reports said that a large number of occupation forces cordoned off the area where the attack took place, launched a large-scale search, and arrested many citizens.

In another development, a big fire broke out at the Marina Hotel in Tel Aviv. Israel radio said that fire engines rushed to the scene and that the Israeli police closed the streets leading to the site of the fire, which caused in heavy material losses. The radio did not mention the cause of the fire.

PFLP's Habash: 'I Will Overthrow 'Arafat'

AU2810174793 Vienna NEWS in German 28 Oct 93 pp 62-66

[Interview with George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by NEWS in Damascus; date not given: "I Will Overthrow 'Arafat"]

[Text] [NEWS] You are regarded as 'Arafat's enemy. Has this feeling deepened since the peace agreement?

[Habash] Yes, 'Arafat has sold and betrayed all of us. We can no longer trust him.

[NEWS] You watched the handshake between 'Arafat and Rabin on television. What did you feel at that moment?

[Habash] I was disgusted. It was terrible to see how greedily he stretched out his hand. He did not release Rabin's hand, he shook it until Rabin flinched, but 'Arafat held on to it. Then I knew that this agreement between Israel and the PLO would never be successful because 'Arafat has not found a real solution with this "peace treaty." The real solution our people can accept will only be achieved when the Palestinians get full autonomy and an independent state and all Palestinians who have to live in the diaspora can return to Palestine. Only then will there be peace.

[NEWS] That is to say, 'Arafat has not achieved the maximum in his negotiations?

[Habash] He missed a historic opportunity—he could have had a historic opportunity to get far more out of it. What have we got? Nothing. They have given us Gaza and Jericho. Nothing more: Admittedly, as a result of the Gulf war, the solidarity with Saddam Husayn and the disintegration of the Soviet Union—which used to support us heavily—'Arafat was dealt a bad hand of cards. Nevertheless, there would have been opportunities to realize more than 'Arafat did in his sordid secret action.

[NEWS] How should 'Arafat have reacted?

[Habash] In the way we have always done. He could have threatened with intifadah, with a fight, if he did not get more. That way he could have united the Palestinian house. However, 'Arafat accepted everything, he wanted only to erect a monument to himself. Here he was backed by the world.

[NEWS] In your opinon, is 'Arafat a traitor?

[Habash] I think that the view that 'Arafat has betrayed the objectives of all Palestinians prevails in most Palestinian groups. The Palestinian people and all Arabs will now watch him very closely, just as the Egyptians watched al-Sadat after he went to Jerusalem.

[NEWS] Is this a threat—after all, al-Sadat was murdered after the peace agreement?

[Habash] I only say this much: We will watch 'Arafat as we watched al-Sadat.

[NEWS] Are you planning to get in touch with 'Arafat during and before the peace negotiations? Did he call you and attempt to talk?

[Habash] No. There was no such occasion, although all telephones worked. He never called me, he only talked to some people from my surroundings about this issue. He even met some of my people. Apparently, he wanted to drive a wedge in my party because he knew I would never agree. He was too cowardly to contact me. But it would also have been very embarrassing for me if I had been fully briefed. I thank God that I never called 'Arafat, otherwise I would have been responsible for this treason.

[NEWS] That is to say, you are accusing 'Arafat of no longer having any enthusiasm?

[Habash] Look, since 1982, since our move from Beirut, 'Arafat has lost his combat strength. He wanted to recognize Israel even then. Even then he said that we had to come to terms. Since that time, the basis for talks has been terminated, and our relationship soiled. There has been and will be no basis with him.

[NEWS] Your "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine" [PFLP] has always been a combat organization. What will it do now in times of peace?

[Habash, laughs] Our people have fought for decades, and they never tire. We will go on fighting until all our objectives have been achieved. By all means. This has been the case since 1917, when the English promised us a state of our own. Neither will we refrain from using our weapons now. Bureaucrats like 'Arafat tire, but the people, never.

[NEWS] Do you now have two enemies: Israel and 'Arafat?

[Habash] Of course, we discussed internally what we should do now. However, the objectives are clearly delineated. The fight against Israel is to continue by intifadah, by the armed struggle against the occupation troops. People will continue to be killed there. However, we do not want an internal Palestinian civil war because this would not help our cause very much. We will rise with our masses against Israel, and I will overthrow 'Arafat and his gang.

[NEWS] One man has already been killed. In Gaza, one of 'Arafat's leading aides was killed. Have you heard about it?

[Habash] Yes, I have. If you wish to insinuate that we might have arranged that, my answer is no.

[NEWS] 'Arafat and the PLO Executive Committee have recognized the Israeli state. What is your attitude?

[Habash] We want a clear solution to the Palestinian problem. When we have achieved everything, you can ask me this question again. Not before that, it only offends me.

[NEWS] If elections were held, how strong would your party be?

[Habash] Now, soon after this media fuss about the peace agreement there would certainly be a majority for 'Arafat's Fatah, and thus for the agreement. The masses are euphoric and emotional. Much has been promised to them. The people do not realize that everything that 'Arafat has done is pure demagogy. This euphoria, restricted to Gaza and the West Bank, is the result of demagogy and Western media machinery. The Western media betrayed the people together with the Jews and 'Arafat. 'Arafat always talks of a first step. This step, however, is a historic lie. There is no road to Jerusalem. In one or two years, it will turn out that all promises are pure eyewash. Then the people will also see this. And then 'Arafat's Fatah will be insignificant, and I will have reached my goal. Then the people will see what 'Arafat really did to Palestine.

[NEWS] Ahmad Jibril advocated that 'Arafat be killed. Do you agree with him?

[Habash] I do not think Jibril put it quite like that; that statement gives a completely distorted picture. It would mean that Palestinian groups who reject the agreement see their last chance in 'Arafat's assassination. But we do not want to kill an individual. We will go on fighting through the masses and thus achieve our objectives.

[NEWS] How do you cooperate with the other opposition groups such as the radical-fundamentalist Hamas, the Jihad Party, Jibril's splinter group?

[Habash] We want an agreement with all groups. Hamas and Jihad are only two of them. It is my objective to organize these groups in such a way that we can develop a broad democratic basis for the opposition struggle.

[NEWS] Is there democracy in the PLO?

[Habash] Palestinian democracy exists on paper. But the way in which it is understood by 'Arafat is ambiguous. We would have many opportunities to push democracy through. With Western support, 'Arafat has reduced our system to absurdity. Clinton is claiming that he acted according to the example of Western democracies in these negotiations. The result is an agreement that was only signed by eight of a total of 18 members of the Executive Council. Thus, the majority protested because it did not care to support this decision.

[NEWS] You need money for your struggle. Are Syria and Iran supporting the opposition parties?

[Habash] I do not know whether Hamas and Jihad are getting money from Syria and Iran. My PFLP does not get any money from Syria and Iran.

[NEWS] How rich is 'Arafat?

[Habash] Ask him personally. 'Arafat has enough money in his secret accounts. 'Arafat deliberately withheld the money to wear the people in the occupied territories down. Now he wants to buy the people's sympathies with this money.

[NEWS] 'Arafat has just dismissed 23 of his security officers. Can he no longer trust his closest aides?

[Habash] I only know that the agreement fomented hatred for 'Arafat. The Palestinians have always been fighters. I come from Lydda. Israel threw me and my parents out of my homeland. We have the right to return to our homeland. There is not a single Palestinian who ever thought that our fight would end with such a miserable agreement. This has given rise to feelings that even eloquent 'Arafat can no longer control.

[NEWS] Would you go with 'Arafat to Jericho if he held out his hand to you?

[Habash] I would give him my hand, but only if all of us could go back to Palestine. I will condemn 'Arafat if he returns alone.

[NEWS] In your office, portraits of Marx and Lenin are hanging. Are you really still a Marxist?

[Habash] Yes, I am an international socialist.

[NEWS] Do you also regard yourself as a terrorist?

[Habash] No, I never was a terrorist!

[NEWS] But your struggle includes hijacking, political murders, attacks...

[Habash] I regard myself as a fighter against injustice. It is the Western media that turn us into terrorists. This is wrong. We are only rebels in the fight for freedom.

DFLP Official on Accord, Recent Assassinations

JN2810150093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Oct 93 p 15

[By Riyad Mansur in Amman]

[Excerpts] Qays al-Samarra'i, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has revealed that extensive talks are currently going on with the Arab Liberation Front [ALF] in order to include it in the national and Islamic leadership that stems from the 10 Palestinian factions. He said the ALF is currently studying details of the basis for joining this leadership. He added: We await a positive response from them in the next few days.

Al-Samarra'i, who is currently visiting Amman, also revealed to SAWT AL-SHA'B that there is ongoing action to hold a series of national people's conferences in various parts of the occupied Palestinian territories. He noted that a preparatory committee that includes representatives of various factions and figures from inside the territories was formed in order to prepare for these conferences which will be crowned by a popular conference for the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to foil the Palestinian-Israeli accord.

The member of the DFLP's Political Bureau described the PLO Central Council's decision to form a national authority as a show decision designed to spread a touch of nationalism and legitimacy. The following is the text of the interview:

[Passage omitted] [Mansur] The assassinations witnessed in the Gaza Strip must be the by-products of the Palestinian-Israeli accord. As a member of the DFLP's Political Bureau, how do you see the future of the Gaza Strip now that the implementation of the accord has started?

[Al-Samarra'i] The situation among the masses inside the territories is now more acutely divided than it ever was during the first days of the Madrid conference. The masses inside the territories are in a state of anticipation and worry about the consequences of the accord and its implementation. Moreover, given that the accord does not meet the minimum level of the people's interests and their national rights, there is much worry about the possibilities of internecine fighting and sedition that could develop into a civil war as a result of the commitment by the party that signed the accord to end the intifadah and all forms of struggle against the Israeli occupation.

The recent assassinations add to this worry and are strongly denounced by our people's masses. These assasinations are nothing more than acts of settling scores among the centers of power and influence within the ranks of the party that signed the accord and is committed to implementing it.

There are confirmed reports, known to all leading Palestinian figures, indicating that all these assassinations express the feverish power struggle within Fatah Movement's leading ranks inside the territories. Our people are looking at this development and wondering what the situation will be like when self-administration is established and the so-called Palestinian police is formed. They also wonder how a party that cannot solve its internal conflicts can guarantee the security and stability of the community and people. This is especially so since it is becoming clear, day after day, that the delusions and promises spread around without any calculation since the signing of the accord are nothing more than baseless lies. Israel is even now bargaining on an issue which should be a self-evident issue, that is, the issue of releasing the prisoners and detainees. It insists that all detainees accused of carrying out armed struggle will not be released, even after the accord is implemented.

Israel is still bargaining over the issue of returning the deportees who were expelled from their land in 1967 and is denying them their right to repatriation. It also refuses to return the territories it seized and rejects the issue of four million refugees whose right to repatriation is secured by the resolutions of international legitimacy.

All these issues form the basis for the unity of the struggle by a large part of our people against this accord and those who signed it and who are involved in its implementation. If this accord can only survive based on serious popular support, then we are sure that the large-scale popular rejection of this accord will sooner or later lead to foiling this accord no matter how powerful the international forces that are using their weight to peddle this accord. Establishing an independent state and returning the refugees cannot be done through this accord but through foiling it and opening the way for new negotiations based on new bases that secure the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The intifadah inside the territories will continue on this road. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the DFLP, Hamas Movement, the Islamic Jihad Movement, and the rest of the 10 factions agreed to form a united national and Islamic leadership to continue and escalate the intifadah. We are currently holding talks with the brothers in the ALF to join this leadership. They presented a positive stand and are studying the bases that would enable them to get involved in this effort. We are waiting for a positive response from them within days.

Parallel to this effort, there is current action to hold a series of popular and national conferences in various areas of the occupied Palestinian territories. A preparatory committee was formed in a order to prepare for these conferences which will be crowned by popular conference forty the entire occupied land. This conference will be attended by all those who oppose the accord. It is agreed that a national steering committee will emanate from this conference. This committee will be a unified political umbrella for the struggle of our people inside the territories at this stage. For those who endorsed this accord since they do not represent our Palestinian people and working to boycott the elections to an autonomy council [sentence as published]. [passage omitted]

PLO Postpones Forming 'National Guard' in Gaza

NC2810222193 Paris AFP in English 2112 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Oct 28 (AFP)—The PLO has postponed the establishment of a "national guard" intended to provide security in Gaza City, the PLO's interim chief representative in the Gaza Strip said here Thursday [28 October].

Tawfiq Abu-Khusah told AFP: "The Palestinian leadership in Tunis is still studying the plan, and when it has made a decision we will be able to set a date."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation in the Gaza Strip decided to set up a 2,500-strong "national guard" following the killing of three of its officials in the past few weeks.

Meanwhile, 30 young uniformed Palestinian men paraded through the West Bank town of Jericho Thursday, in the first such march to be allowed by the Israeli authorities.

Israeli troops are to begin a withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho on December 13, according to the terms of the PLO-Israeli autonomy deal signed on September 13 in Washington.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and another hardline Palestinian group, Islamic Jihad, have rejected the autonomy deal.

Arabs Asked To Boycott Jerusalem Municipal Elections

TA2810183793 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Oct 93 p 2

[By Zaki Abu-al-Halawah and Muhammad Abu-Khudayr]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—Fatah and the Palestinian People's Party [PPP] have called on Jerusalem residents to boycott the upcoming municipal elections in the city. They consider participation in the elections would contribute to the annexation process, for which the Israeli Government is endeavoring, and would give legitimacy to the city's occupation.

This came in a statement distributed yesterday during a popular festival arranged by the Palestinian People's Party at the al-Hakawati Theater.

The statement stressed the rejection of Israeli practices aimed at annexing Jerusalem, which is considered an indivisible part of the territories occupied by Israel in 1967. [passage omitted]

Fatah Official Denies Reports of House Arrests

PM2810113493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Oct 93 p 7

[Report on interview with Fatah Central Committee member Muhammad Ghunaym, alias Abu-Mahir, by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] A prominent Palestinian Fatah official has denied recent reports that a group of the movement's cadres are under house arrest. He stressed that that information is inaccurate and that there are no Palestinians in detention in Tunis, whether Fatah cadres or others.

This denial came from Muhammad Ghunaym (Abu-Mahir), member of the Central Committee and official in charge of mobilization and organization in Fatah, in an interview given to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. Abu-Mahir added: "I want to confirm conclusively that no one in Fatah is under house arrest, whether because of an internal dispute in Fatah or because of any of the existing political issues."

Abu-Mahir pointed out that what some newspapers reported, namely that the Palestinian leadership conducted an investigation with nine senior Fatah officials in Gaza in connection with the case of Lawyer Muhammad Abu-Sha'ban's assassination on 21 September, is absolutely baseless, with regard to both the arrest and the accusation. [passage omitted]

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the truth of reports that Hani al-Hasan has been prevented from leaving Tunis because of his position on the declaration of principles agreement and the statements he made following his meeting in Damascus with [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine leader] George Habash and [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine leader] Nayif Hawatimah regarding political isolation, Abu-Mahir stressed that "brother Hani al-Hasan is in Tunis at his own will. He is a dear brother and can stay wherever he wants, and he can leave whenever he wants. So there is no restriction on his freedom of movement." [passage omitted]

Regarding the quarter responsible for As'ad al-Saftawi's assassination, Abu-Mahir said that "the finger of suspicion is pointed at foreign quarters, and that inquires are currently being conducted to determine who is behind this operation." [passage omitted]

Regarding reports of sharp differences between Fatah and the factions participating in the peace process over the names of members of the Palestinian side in the joint Israeli-Palestinian committees, Muhammad Ghunaym said that all areas of action are open to everyone, and that the action arena has not been closed to anyone. So the Palestinian leadership continues to call on the Palestinian political forces and forces of struggle to join the program currently being implemented, aimed at building the Palestinian national authority and laying the foundations for an independent Palestinian state on all the West Bank and Gaza with Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omitted]

Asked about the current situation between Fatah and the factions rejecting the agreement, especially Hamas, Abu-Mahir said: As is well known, before the announcement of the agreement there was a dialogue between Fatah and the other Palestinian forces designed to achieve national unity on the largest scale. But when the agreement was announced, these factions adopted an oppositionist position which not only led to the suspension of dialogue, but also reached the point of a confrontation. It is what they termed political isolation or formation of alternative frameworks to the PLO. We believe that these emotional positions are personal positions and should not continue among Palestinian ranks, whatever the reasons, because national dialogue and its success in securing a national program represents political consensus among all Palestinian forces and formulates the nature of the work that must be done in the future. [passage omitted]

Sources 'Cannot Confirm' al-Husayni Assassination Bid

PM2910104093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Oct 93 p 4

['Ali al-Salih and Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Palestinian Source Refuses To Confirm or Deny Report of Attempt To Assassinate Al-Husayni"]

[Text] London, Tunis—A Palestinian source has refused to confirm or deny reports quoting Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat as saying that Faysal al-Husayni, general coordinator of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, was exposed to an assassination attempt. The information official of the "Bayt al-Sahrq" [center] in occupied Jerusalem, which is headed by Faysal al-Husayni himself, has said: "We have no knowledge of any assassination attempt apart from what we heard from news agencies." The source added: "We have no knowledge of the matter or anything to add. So we cannot confirm or deny the report."

The same was said by a Palestinian official in Tunis who asked to remain anonymous. He said: "Actually I have no information in this connection, so I cannot confirm or deny the reports." Al-Husayni himself has not commented on the report because he is on a mission outside the occupied territories. Press reports in the Jordanian capital had said that 'Arafat revealed this attempt in a meeting during which he was receiving condolences for the death of As'ad al-Saftawi, a Fatah activist who was assassinated in Gaza last week.

An investigation committee formed by 'Arafat has acquitted a number of individuals who used to guard PLO leaders and who were arrested recently on charges of planning to carry out assassination attempts against [Palestinian] leaders in Tunis. Well-informed Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the investigation committee has made an important finding, namely that there are hidden hands behind this information, which is intended to camouflage other issues.

The investigation committee has issued a decision to arrest one of the persons who were not arrested in the previous campaign, as it has been discovered that he was the one who fabricated this information and leaked it to his colleagues. It is worth mentioning that two weeks ago an arrest campaign was launched among the guards of Ahmad Quray' (Abu-al-'Ala'), director of the PLO Economic Department, who headed the Palestinian side in the secret Oslo negotiations, and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee. This campaign also included some of the guards and escorts of Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan, who is opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement. These detainees were put in Hammam al-Shatt prison. The well-informed sources added that the investigation committee is currently conducting an extensive investigation with this person who betrayed his colleagues in order to know his aims and motives, which may not be personal motives, but, rather, security motives.

A high-ranking official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the results of the investigation with the detained guards indicate nothing but discontent on their part because they have not received their salaries for three months.

Demonstrators Call for Release of Prisoners

TA2810184693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Announcer-read report over video]

[Text] Pressure continues on releasing Palestinian prisoners. Today there were demonstrations in the territories demanding the immediate release of all prisoners and detainees. There were sit-down strikes outside the International Red Cross offices in the various towns, and women held processions. The main procession was in Faysal Street, Nabulus' main street. The wives of prisoners, especially those who husbands are serving terms for membership of the Rejectionist Front and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], shouted slogans against the Israeli-PLO agreement and charged Yasir 'Arafat with treason. 'Arafat must not think he will benefit from the fruit for which we slaved so many years, the leaflets distribed by the women to passers-by said. Shortly after the procession began, security forces prevented it from continuing. The women dispersed without the use of force by the soldiers. Amir Hay, our correspondent in the territories, reports that a similar demonstration was held in Jericho, where at the same time the nascent Palestinian police force made its first appearance.

Algeria

Malek on Combating Terrorism, Kidnapping

LD2810223993 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1939 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Speech by Prime Minister Redha Malek to sports federation officials and representatives on 28 October; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Your excellency the minister of youth and sports, ministers, ladies and gentlemen: I would like first of all to greet you on behalf of the Higher State Council and the government—this government that is yours and that belongs to all.

We are very interested in the official opening of the sporting season 1993-94, because it is taking place at a difficult time for the country, as you know.

The government plan, as it has stressed in the past, consists in the return to stability and reassuring people. This is the first plan we are aspiring for as a government. Bringing back mutual trust between the citizens and the government is the main concern of the government. Therefore, the government is obviously taking the necessary measures to eradicate terrorism, violence, and the acts of sabotage and destruction. At the same time, the government is trying to rehabilitate the economy, to give new prospects, and to encourage any initiatives taken by the citizens: initiatives at work and in economy. [passage omitted]

At the same time, we must combat unemployment and find work for our youth in particular. These are difficult challenges. Nevertheless we must pause at them. There is no escape from them.

Every year 170,000 young persons enter the job market. They try to find work. This naturally is linked and tied to the economy and the development of the economy. [passage omitted]

Here, we have only one Algerian society, not two or three societies. Only one society. Solidarity of all the parts of society has become necessary. This is why the government is working along this road and line. Its line will be clear in this field, God willing. [passage omitted]

We must combat graft, bureaucacy, and complacency, which the citizen has become tired of. We must combat bad things generally. This should be at all levels. [passage omitted]

We must notice that the heightening of violence in recent days or rather in recent weeks coincided with the new law on investments. This law opens the field to investors whether from here or abroad. The answer to this important gesture to revive our society was the assassination and the kidnapping of foreigners, but this is to no avail. Anyone who wants to destabilize this state will not be able to do so, because this state emerged from the heart of the revolution. This state is not a colonial or foreign state. This state sprang from the heart of the immortal Algerian revolution. For this reason, it is impossible to undermine this historic gain. The future history, centuries and centuries will come and go and still they will be talking about this immortal revolution: the November revolution which we are going to celebrate shortly.

[Passage omitted] Despite the difficult conditions, I am convinced that the sports world can contribute to establishing stability and the balance necessary for Algerian society, particularly the balance of young people. [passage omitted]

Search Continues for Kidnapped French Citizens

PM2810144493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Oct 93 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Security Authorities Intensify Campaign to Arrest Kidnappers of French Nationals"]

[Text] Paris, Algiers, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Algerian security forces yesterday continued their search for the three French nationals kidnapped the day before yesterday in the capital Algiers. The French Foreign Ministry yesterday advised French nationals in Algeria to intensify their security measures following the kidnap of the three French consulate officials in Algiers. These officials are Jean-Claude Thevenot and his wife Michele and their colleague Alain Freyssier. Foreign ambassadors in Algiers also advised their nationals to be cautious.

A spokesman for the French Embassy in Algiers has stated that nothing has been announced regarding the fate of the three kidnapped people. The Algerian Government promised to do its best to save the the lives of the three people who were kidnapped in the city center the day before yesterday in the morning, and to apprehend the kidnappers.

In a statement, a copy of which was received by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the Armed Islamic Group [al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah al-Musallahah] claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of foreigners and said that last Sunday's operation, that is the kidnapping of the three French nationals, was not the first and would not be the last.

The statement added that the Armed Islamic Group was the one which made the decisions and it, and nobody else, had the right to speak for al-Jihad, "especially not those living overseas and beyond the oceans .... There will be no dialogue, no reconciliation, no negotiation, no discussion, no handing over of authority to a neutral government, no transitional government, and no half-solutions."

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated that the French ambassador in Algiers has summoned representatives of the French companies operating there to remind them to observe security instructions.

The spokesman did not say whether or not the embassy advised French people working in Algeria to send their families back to France.

EC states ambassadors have held a meeting at the French Embassy. Algiers radio said that they intended to advise their nationals living in isolated areas to go out in groups.

A high-ranking Western diplomat said yesterday that "there is clear anxiety. There were four attacks on foreigners in one week. Some embassies have requested more security patrols. We believe that there will be more attacks."

Last month two French nationals were kidnapped and murdered in western Algeria. Last week three foreigners working for an Italian gas company met the same fate. That prompted the U.S. Embassy to urge U.S. nationals to take more security precautions and avoid traveling unnecessarily to isolated areas.

Meanwhile, a group of women yesterday staged a sit-in opposite the presidential headquarters in the Algerian capital. According to the Algerian Press Agency, they were carrying placards condemning terrorism and rejecting dialogue with terrorists.

The agency added that the women also sang national songs and shouted anti-terrorist slogans.

Yesterday's Algerian papers said that the security forces arrested three people on the charge of participation in the assassination of the Algerian physician Jelani Belkhanshir on 10 October.

The newspaper LIBERTE, published in French, quoted an informed source as saying that these three people would appear before a magistrate before being committed for trial. The same source said that the security forces were able to discover the identity of the main culprit in the assassination, who is still at large.

The press also said that another Algerian national, who worked as a radio station driver, was attacked with weapons the day before yesterday in front of one of the Agriculture Ministry buildings in the capital Algiers. He was seriously wounded.

A special court in the town of Oran in western Algeria has sentenced four people in absentia to life imprisonment on the charge of plotting against the security of the state. It also handed down prison sentences ranging from three to 10 years against 18 others in connection with the case of the attempt to attack a National Guard center in the town of Sidi Bel Abbes.

The Algerian Press Agency, which reported this yesterday, said that these people belonged to a group called "Qasr al-Shelalah."

FIS Official: Kidnapping Not Group Policy

BR2810112693 Paris LIBERATION in French 27 Oct p 2-3

[Interview with Rabeh Kebir, spokesman of the Islamic Salvation Front abroad, by J.G.; date and place not given: "The Islamic Salvation Front Is Not Taking It Out on Foreigners"—Rabeh Kebir, Highly Critical of French Policy, Claims That his Movement has but one Enemy: the Algerian Government"—first paragraph is LIBERATION introduction]

[Text] At the age of 37, Rabeh Kebir is the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) spokesman abroad and president of the "executive body of the FIS abroad," which was set up a few weeks ago and which brings together all strands of the Islamic movement. Arrested in February 1992 and subsequently placed under house arrest, he left Algeria in September of the same year and has since lived in Germany, where we contacted him by telephone. A professor of physics, he is one of the "Islamo-technocrats," the name given to the heads of the Islamic movement who emerged shortly before the FIS was banned.

[LIBERATION] Are the three French citizens taken hostage in Algiers being held by armed Islamic groups?

[Kebir] There has been very little information so far. I cannot say anything on this subject, as I do not, for the moment, know who kidnapped these three people or where they may be.

[LIBERATION] Foreigners have been targeted in Algeria for a month now. Is this a new strategy on the part of the Islamists?

[Kebir] Taking things out on foreigners and harming them is not our problem. That has never been FIS policy. We have always said that our fight is not directed against foreigners but against the dictatorship. The situation in Algeria is deteriorating day by day, however, because the terrorist government and dictatorship are conducting a reign of terror. In this context, the position of certain Western countries is unacceptable. Algeria is a victim of a policy of double standards. In the case of Haiti or Nigeria, the West says that the choice of the people must be respected. But when it comes to Algeria, it is a different story. Also the fact that the FIS leaders are imprisoned, underground, or abroad, makes it difficult to control the situation on the ground.

[LIBERATION] Do you exclude any possibility that the FIS leaders may have decided to take foreigners as hostages in general and the French in particular?

[Kebir] The FIS leaders have never issued any directives to this effect, either abroad or at home. If the FIS leaders have to adopt a position toward certain countries, it will be a political one. When Alain Juppe made his statements, which were hostile to our movement (in June 1993, the foreign minister promised that France would "have nothing to do with movements which preach violence and terror, even if they are religiously inspired"). we provided a political response by stating that it amounted to interference in Algeria's internal affairs. pure and simple. We have chosen political action. but the people may react in ways that are not political. and these reactions are not easy to control.

[LIBERATION] Do you consider the statements by Alain Juppe as being a declaration of war against the Islamists?

[Kebir] I have already told you. The response by the FIS to these hostile statements will always be political. We say to any official who chooses to side with the dictatorship that he does so against the interests of France itself. because the people remain while regimes do not.

The Algerian regime is there today. but it most certainly will not be there tomorrow. The daily events in our country prove it. Nevertheless. Alain Juppe bears a certain responsibility for the tragedy of the kidnapping of foreigners. because they were taken after he made his statements.

[LIBERATION] Would you like to see foreigners leave the country to isolate the government?

[Kebir] After the coup d'etat (the forced resignation of President Chedli Bendjedid and the interruption of the electoral process. editor's note) we asked other countries not to aid the putschists. but to boycott them. We repeat our demand for foreign countries to respect the choice of the people.

[LIBERATION] There are rumors of contacts between the government and certain heads of the Islamic movement before the "national dialogue." which is set to begin in the next few days.

[Kebir] There have been no such contacts. This dialogue is no more than a mask to conceal the government's true colors. In the present state of war. when there are executions daily. and often without trial. when torture is widespread and the ill treatment of FIS leaders has undermined the health of Abassi Madani (FIS president. whose state of health is causing concern). it is a joke to speak of dialogue. The FIS has never asked for dialogue with the regime under these conditions.

[LIBERATION] But isn't negotiation essential to halt the escalating violence?

[Kebir] I think that we will negotiate one day. But that will be on how the dictatorship is to relinquish power and hand over Algeria to the Algerians.

Hamas Leader Addresses Anniversary Meeting

LD2810232293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] This morning. before a large crowd of Hamas [Islamic Society Movement] activists—the al-Rimal cinema was not large enough — Mahfoud Nahnah. the leader of the movement. held a meeting to mark the anniversary of the glorious liberation revolution. The speakers described this anniversary as the height of the Islamic national scene. which brought the people to independence as they rallied around the 1 November declaration.

In his lengthy lecture on the liberation revolution. Mahfoud Nahnah asserted that Algeria must remain lofty and must be built by all Algerians.

[Begin Nahnah recording] Algeria is in need of everyone. Algeria which was freed by everyone must only be built by everyone. In order that everyone should come under the banner of Algeria. Algeria must be above all heads and above all leaders. above parties. selfish interests. and above the monopolies that have continued for 30 years. [end recording]

Talking about the present Algerian crisis. the Hamas leader expressed his deep belief in the inevitability of the emergence of an honest and sincere dialogue concerning the homeland.

[Begin Nahnah recording] We do not want this homeland to be divided because of a desire to share power. We do not want Algerians in this country to negotiate with one another. The negotiation process usually takes place with those who are outside Algerian soil—the traditional enemies of Algeria or intruders. What we want is a wide open dialogue that is not restricted and that does not exclude any elements who want good—all good—for Algeria.

Honorable brothers. when we call for dialogue—I want our media men in particular to note this—when we call for dialogue we mean that the hearts of Algerians are open to one another and that they forget their crises and disasters. Remembering these crises and calamities prevent our hearts from opening up to one another. We should bury our hatred.

God bless the men of 1 November. God bless the men of 1 November—the mujahidin who remained faithful to the pledge until this day and the martyrs who gave their lives to enable Algeria to survive. Those men came on 1 November and placed their hand on the Koran before saying: We will fight. We will forget our hatred: we will forget our problems. Here is colonialism and here are we.

Today we. as Muslim Algerians. must forget our hatred. [end recording]

Al-Nahda Movement Leader on National Dialogue

LD2910051293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The al-Nahda Islamic Movement held a meeting at the ibn-Khaldoun Hall chaired by Shaykh Abdallah Jaballah. the leader of the movement. The subject of the meeting was: Which dialogue is a way to solution? Here is Hassan Bilawdah:

[Bilawdah] In his lecture. Shaykh Abdallah Jaballah touched upon the reality of the dialogue and its conditions.

[Begin Jaballah recording] Our vision of the nature of the dialogue is based on the one hand on our visualization of the crisis and on the aims we want to achieve. This is the way: The general principles that govern the shape of the state should be capable, first of embodying the constants of the Algerian society—namely, Islam, Arabism, national unity, and independence or sovereignty. Second, to embody the aim of 1 November as stated in the declaration of the revolution, namely to build a democratic Algerian sovereign republic within the framework of the Islamic principles. [passage omitted]

Why do we wish to solve the crisis in this manner? It is because we do not only want to solve the crisis of the institutions, but we want to solve the crisis of the Algerian state and remove the confusion about the separation of the state from the people. We want this solution to be capable of solving the balance between authority and freedom. Authority must not become high-handed and proceed toward becoming tyrant and political parties must not exceed their limits by proceeding toward disintegration by becoming instruments of destruction of the values and gains of society rather being instruments of construction.

Third, we want all the sons of Algeria—officials and individuals—to be mobilized for building Algeria until the comprehensive modern development of the country is realized. [end recording]

University Teachers To Suspend Strike on 3 Nov

LD2810235493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] The National Council of the higher education teachers decided to suspend as of 3 November, the strike that began on 18 October. It called on all teachers to organize meetings and turn next Wednesday into a day of national protest by all university people.

The chairman of the national teachers council confirmed that this measure, that was taken today following a general assembly of teachers, was dictated by the responsible positin of the council who called on the authorities concerned to take a similar stance and to deal positively with the legitimate demands of the teachers.

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on 'Fundamentalists' Threats'

NC2810175693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] New York, 28 Oct (MENA)—In an interview with THE WALL STREET JOURNAL published today, President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that the threats of the Islamic extremists are restricted to terrorist acts. [Words indistinct] some of them are paid to kill and foment problems here and there.

The paper says that despite the fundamentalists' threats, President Mubarak has steered Egypt along a democratic path. The president added: We are pursuing the democratic experience and the elements of democracy do exist in Egypt. We have a free press, pluralism, freedom of expression, and free parliamentary elections.

The president urged the United States to maintain the level of aid to Egypt, at least for the next few years, in order to enable Egypt to carry out its economic reform programs. He cautioned against any immediate cut in military aid as a result of the peace process. He stressed that the situation in the Middle East region is still dangerous, adding that the Egyptian armed forces have procurement contracts until 1996. The president noted that U.S. aid will not continue forever, but he urged the United States to continue this aid at least during the economic reform period.

President Mubarak proposed that the United States stop pressuring Arab countries to end their boycott of Israel as a way of advancing the peace process. The president said that the boycott to which the Arab countries, except for Egypt, are committed will cease to exist by itself. However, he noted that putting pressure to end the boycott will generate an adverse reaction that could complicate the peace efforts.

The president called for allowing ample time for this step, warning of the consequences of vigorous pressure to end the boycott. He said that public opinion in the region could create problems for the heads of state and could also obstruct the peace process.

President Mubarak said that the United States should try, along with African leaders, to resolve the dispute in Somalia. The paper notes that President Mubarak is playing an effective role in the African political movement.

President Mubarak said that he had lengthy talks with President Clinton on Somalia. He advised President Clinton to rely on the Ethiopian leaders to mediate between the heads of Somali tribes in order to form a coalition government and help the UN forces to disarm the tribes.

In his interview, President Mubarak said that it would be difficult for foreign troops to collect weapons. He added: But with the help of the African leaders, it will be possible to reach this objective before the departure of the U.S. troops from Somalia at the end of March.

President Mubarak also urged the United States to avoid an isolationist policy after the cold war. He said the principle of isolation for a major power like the United States, which has commitments on all international events. [sentence as received]

Egyptian-U.S. Summit 'Achieved All Its Goals'

NC2810194293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "Why Did the Washington Summit Focus On Bilateral Relations and the Middle East Issue?"]

[Excerpts] It was natural for Presidents Husni Mubarak and Bill Clinton to give priority to issues of mutual interest, as well as urgent issues at the African and international levels, during their summit in Washington on Monday. The news conference of the two presidents following their talks at the White House underscored this fact. It is evident from the two presidents' remarks during the news conference and from sources close to the talks that Egyptian- U.S. relations, particularly their economic ties, were of special interest to the two sides. These ties are of special importance at this particular time. Egypt has gone a long way toward economic reforms and full transformation to a market economy. This shift has met with striking success, which makes the Egyptian economic reform experiment and its shift to a market economy a model that could be followed by various world countries, particularly the developing nations. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that the tangible and obvious success of this shift in one of the most prominent and important countries in the Middle East, if not the most important and prominent of all, is of interest to the United States, the main advocate of that trend and the country that provides the best example of a market economy. It is also equally important to all economically advanced countries in the world. Hence, the interest of the Egyptian and U.S. sides at the Washington summit in the need to consolidate the economic reform process in Egypt by keeping the large U.S. aid program to Egypt at its present level and to further promote Egyptian-U.S. ties in all fields in general. President Bill Clinton pledged to do so in his news conference following the Washington summit.

Another equally important priority issue discussed during the talks was the Middle East peace process and the need for cooperation and coordination between Cairo and Washington to give momentum to a comprehensive peace process in the region. President Clinton's clear eagerness to praise President Mubarak's and Egypt's important role in the peace process is significant. It confirms Egypt's prominent position in the region and underlines a well-known fact: namely, that it is not possible to deal with any of the region's affairs in the absence of Egypt and without taking its say into account. [passage omitted]

Thus, the Egyptian-U.S. summit in Washington has clearly achieved all its goals. It will be followed today by an Egyptian-French summit in Paris, where President Mubarak will be recognized by UNESCO as the first president of a Third World country to declare education a national issue. It is further proof that Egypt will never abandon its cultural role, despite all circumstances and turbulence.

LIBERATION Publishes Mubarak Interview

BR2810140393 Paris LIBERATION in French 28 Oct 93 pp 16-17

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Jose Garcon, Daniel Grammatico, and Patrick Sabatier in Cairo on 27 October: "Mubarak: No Concession to Islamists"—first two paragraphs are LIBERATION introduction]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who has just begun an official visit in France, condemns fundamentalist violence in his country. As for the peace process in the Middle East, he deems it irreversible and considers that an agreement between Israel and Syria is possible "before the end of the year."

At 65, Egyptian leader Husni Mubarak is beginning his third term in office. The only candidate to his own succession, he obtained, according to official figures, 96.28 percent of the votes cast in a plebiscite on 4 October. He answered LIBERATION's questions in Cairo, on the eve of the visit he begins in France today.

[LIBERATION] Several foreigners were killed on Tuesday night in Cairo. Does this mean that Islamic terrorism is a growing threat to Egypt?

[Mubarak] I am told that this act was not committed by a terrorist but rather by a lunatic. It appears the killer was discharged in 1989 due to mental disorders. Unfortunately, this could have happened anywhere. I wish to express my deep regret and sorrow for M. Boulan's death as well as that of other innocent victims in this deplorable incident.

[LIBERATION] And yet, terrorism destabilizes the economy by reducing Egypt's revenue from tourism.

[Mubarak] The few terrorist acts committed a few months ago did have a negative impact. Things are better today, though. This summer, crowds at Luxor and Sharm-al-Shaykh were close to capacity.

[LIBERATION] Violence is endemic in Asyut, in the South.

[Mubarak] The region of Asyut has always had a tradition of vendettas. Eradicating this tradition can only be done over the long term. What happened there, including the attitude of the police, was partly due to this. To be sure, the terrorist threat has not evaporated, but it is decreasing.

[LIBERATION] You accused Iran of promoting Islamic terrorism in Egypt. Is this still the case?

[Mubarak] Possibly. We watch Iranians closely. We know there are several factions in Tehran: moderates, extremists... But we are not about to forget that they declared that they will spend $500 million to stir up trouble in the region.

[LIBERATION] Are the roots of terrorism not mainly internal? Is it not true that corruption and poverty are more powerful catalysts than foreign plots?

[Mubarak] There is corruption throughout the world. Poverty, injustice are everywhere, too, including in the United States and in France. There is also terrorism elsewhere, a worse brand than ours... for instance, in Great Britain.

There is no denying that economic problems and poverty are also to blame. However, here, terrorists use hardened criminals, they give them money to shed blood.

[LIBERATION] Still, some have compared Egypt to Iran before the shah was overthrown.

[Mubarak] Egypt has nothing in common with Iran. Its culture, its history, its people are totally different. We experienced democracy before the revolution, and we have democracy again today.

[LIBERATION] Are you not afraid that things might go the way they have in Algeria?

[Mubarak] There is no similarity either. We have 7,000 years of civilization. In this country, moderation is the rule.

[LIBERATION] Do you still rule out dialogue with Muslim fundamentalists?

[Mubarak] We tried to talk with them four or five years ago. Nothing came of it. Now they have taken to using weapons, and we cannot have a dialogue with them any more. And do not call them "Islamists": These are no Muslims! We will never legalize these parties. Our legislation forbids creating political parties based on religious principles. This would pave the way for religious wars: moderate Islamists versus fundamentalists, Christians, Jews, etc. What is more, they reject democracy. I had warned President Chedli (in Algeria—Editor's note) against the dangers of having a religious party in a Muslim country. He would not listen to me, and you can see the outcome! I do not give one inch to the Islamists. Those who use weapons against us, we will fight them in kind.

[LIBERATION] What are your priorities? Economic reform, the fight against terrorism, or against corruption?

[Mubarak] I cannot accelerate further the pace of economic reforms. It is sufficient as it is. The reform's toughest stage is now behind us. We are going to start privatizing, and we hope that within two years we shall be able to achieve a much better standard of living. Economic reform must go faster than political reform.

[LIBERATION] With peace now a definite possibility in the Middle East, can Egypt not envision cutting its military spending, one of the region's highest at 11 percent of GNP?

[Mubarak] No one can tell what is going to happen next in this crazy world of ours. Peace with Israel does not mean peace throughout the region. There is Iran, there is Somalia. We have already cut our Armed Forces' from 1 million down to 500,000 men. We cannot cut them further. The Army is the main pillar of our Constitution, of our prosperity, of everything in the country. It must be preserved.

[LIBERATION] What do you think the odds are for a successful peace process in the Middle East?

[Mubarak] There is no question that some would like to see the current process break down. However, I remain convinced that this process will continue. Syria really wants peace, and it really wants to settle its problems with Israel. There still are differences on the timetable for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The Syrians want Israel to commit to evacuating the whole plateau. Rabin wants Syria to explain in more detail how it sees peace; for him, peace means a complete normalization of relations between the two countries. President al-Asad is a cautious man. When our medias asked him what the price of peace would be, should Rabin agree to it, his answer was "everything for everything." The way I see it, this means all the Golan in exchange for normal diplomatic relations. Neither Israel nor Syria has any interest in stalling. They could achieve an agreement before year end.

[LIBERATION] Can the opposition of some Palestinians jeopardize the accord?

[Mubarak] Problems are unavoidable. But it will be very difficult to block the peace process. Provided, that is, that the occupied territories get the assistance and investment they need... The populations would then realize that peace would be good for them.

[LIBERATION] So, you think the process is irreversible?

[Mubarak] Yes. There is no other way. Negotiations will proceed beyond Gaza and Jericho, however slowly... There will be delays.

[LIBERATION] Will you visit Israel soon?

[Mubarak] Why make things more complicated than they already are? My relationship with Israel is good. My sole objective is to bring the Syrians and the Israelis to the peace table. And I can postpone my visit if it is in the interest of peace. But I will go one of these days.

[LIBERATION] Are you in favor of discontinuing the Arab boycott against Israel?

[Mubarak] This is a very sensitive question, which I would rather not talk about right now. It must be dealt with very quietly. President al-Asad stated that the boycott must continue until problems with Israel have been settled. I can only agree if this contributes to bringing Syria into the peace process.

[LIBERATION] Will peace not have an adverse impact on Egypt, which might lose its strategic status in the eye of the Western world?

[Mubarak] We are not planning on receiving aid ad vitam aeternam. We do expect slower aid flows. But Egypt will remain the hub of the region. Should Egypt become destabilized, the whole Middle East would be affected. It would be a mistake to think that our country will lose its role in the region. Even if we achieve a total resolution of the Israel-Palestinians problem, the region will not be 100 percent safe. There will still be Iran, fanatics.

[LIBERATION] What are you going to talk about with President Mitterrand during your official visit in Paris?

[Mubarak] We have never had a better relationship with France, and I cannot think of any problem that needs solving. I will meet President Mitterrand in my capacity as current president of the OAU (Organization of African Unity), and we will of course discuss the peace process in the Middle East.

[LIBERATION] Does France have a role to play in the Middle East nowadays?

[Mubarak] I think it can play a key role in the region. Without Europe's support, the peace process would fail, as the Americans are not willing to contribute much money. And the region's populations will only continue to support this process if they realize their interests are best served by peace.

Writer Says Peace Requires 'Fair Deal' for All

NC2710154593 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 20 Oct 93 p 2

[Article by Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad: "Security Cooperation Is Not the Key to Palestinian-Israeli Reconciliation"]

[Text] 'Arafat is no longer a terrorist symbol in the Israeli Government's eyes, but is, indeed, being asked to become an antiterrorist symbol! This means he is being asked to lead the Palestinian forces who will be charged with the mission of confronting Palestinian terrorism! Before the recent Israeli- Palestinian talks on ways to implement the "Gaza-Jericho Agreement," [Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on] Peres announced that "Israel will cooperate on security issues with the PLO" and that he hopes for "a joint war against terrorism!" The fact is: If Israel makes combating terrorism the basic pillar of the Palestinian-Israeli reconciliation process, it will ruin the peace chance and subject the entire region to unprecedented danger.

The Israeli Government must understand that the way to uproot terrorism is to reach a formula of coexistence and peace based on equality and mutual respect for the two parties' legitimate aspirations, not the opposite.

Placing security issues at the head of the problems that must be solved is a call to civil war and deeper conflicts, not only among the Palestinians, but also inside Israel. Those who stand to gain from such a scenario are not only those who say 'Arafat has abandoned the cause to become Israel's "policeman" against the Palestinians, but also the Israelis who are gambling on increasing inter-Palestinian tension that would eventually lead to bloodshed in Gaza and the West Bank. Any bloody confrontations, even among the Palestinians themselves, will necessarily affect the Israelis too and this will strengthen the arguments of the Israeli opposition—particularly Likud hardliners—that Rabin's government has subjected Israel to new risks rather than reduce existing ones.

The Israeli Government might feel proud that it is delegating the task of uprooting the Palestinian resistance in the occupied territories to the PLO. It claims that when the PLO undertakes this arduous task, it will make it appear earnest, responsible, credible, and respectable in Israeli eyes. By doing this, Israel will not reduce the violence. Rather, it will justify it in the eyes of many Palestinians.

Peace should not mean subordinating the Palestinian people's actions to Israeli security requirements. Peace requires a fair deal that can make all parties feel they stand to gain something. Peace, like liberty, is indivisible and can never be achieved unless it fulfills the legitimate aspirations of all the parties to the conflict.

Editorial Criticizes Withdrawal From Somalia

NC2710153493 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Oct 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Negative Effects of Military Withdrawal From Somalia"]

[Text] Since the United States decided to change its policy in Somalia, attempts have been made to achieve political reconciliation under direct regional and African auspices and tackle the humanitarian aspect of the problem. While these efforts are largely considered positive, the Western states' decision to withdraw their forces from Somalia within a few months without determining the outcome of the reconciliation measures that will be undertaken poses some challenges. The United States has decided to withdraw its forces by the end of March 1994. Germany has adopted a similar position and has decided to reduce the number of its troops from 500 to 400 and to withdraw the German contingent by next April. There are signs that France will follow suit.

Of course, the states have a right to protect their troops and to take appropriate measures for this purpose. However, these decisions appear somewhat hasty and as if they were made under pressure because of recent developments. They were not made after consultations among the allies participating in this UN mission. This will create some difficulties for the African states' mission, particularly over the next few months. If there is a desire to give the African states a chance to play an effective role in containing the Somali crisis and ensuring an acceptable political solution, the Western states' decision to pull out individually and without a minimum level of consultations with the African states concerned will increase rather than decrease the difficulties. It would be better for everyone to look at the situation with goodwill and provide suitable conditions to ensure the success of the African efforts and not to create additional obstacles.

Wisdom of Involvement in Somalia Questioned

NC2710155893 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 23 Oct 93 p 8

["Closeup" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Somalia and Us"]

[Text] The United States is now seeking a way out of Somalia with a minimum amount of political and military damage. It is trying to save face as the biggest world power and to prove to the American people, above all, that it is still the world leader and, unlike some small nations, it is not making policy blunders.

When the United States sent its forces to Somalia, it did not consult with the Arab League, of which Somalia is a member, nor with the OAU, of which Somalia is also a member. It did not consult with the United Nations, either, but it persuaded the UN Security Council to issue a resolution while the U.S. forces were already on their way to Somalia.

Developments in Somalia since the arrival of the U.S.-led foreign forces under a fragile cover of UN resolutions provide ample proof that when U.S. forces enter a country, they despoil it [allusion to a Koranic verse that says: "Kings, when they enter a country, despoil it"].

The political-humanitarian mission in Somalia has been turned into a major military operation. The main objectives of saving hundreds of thousands of hunger-stricken people, returning life to piles of skeletons throughout Somalia, and achieving reconciliation among warring tribes to build a nucleus for a political system that could later rule the country have developed into a pitched battle between U.S.-led international forces and one of the main factions in Somalia, led by Mohamed Farah Aidid. The UN mission changed, and the international forces began pursuing Aidid to capture him dead or alive, blaming him for the incident in which 23 Pakistani soldiers were killed and for an ambush in which seven U.S. soldiers were killed and a large number of them were injured.

While the United Nations spent some $150 million on relief operations in Somalia, it spent more than $1 billion on military operations. Had that sum been spent on the Somali people, they would have brought the Somalis back into existence.

It is obvious that the United States is looking for a way out of the crisis. The plan currently being formulated provides for the replacement of the U.S. and Western forces with Arab, Islamic, and African forces.

The question is: Is it in Egypt's interest to get involved in this quagmire since the West, led by the United States, has managed to complicate it to this extent? This must be considered with extreme caution. It is not our responsibility to remove the political garbage left by the United States and the United Nations.

Envoy Leaves for Talks on Burundi

NC2710165493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1134 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—Sa'id Rif'at, assistant to the foreign minister for African affairs, left Cairo for the Rwandan capital of Kigali this morning as President Mubarak's envoy. He will discuss events in Burundi and hold political contacts in Rwanda or with Burundian parties if he can travel to Burundi.

Ambassador Naji al-Ghatrifi, the official Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the Egyptian Ambassador to Burundi 'Ala' Abd-al-'Alim is holding intensive contacts with all the influential parties and foreign ambassadors to assess the possibility of restoring security and stability and consolidating legitimacy in Burundi.

Intensive Search Nets 46 'Terrorists'

NC2810140793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1327 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Oct (MENA)—A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry has stated that the intensive search campaigns conducted by police forces throughout the republic have led to the capture of 46 terrorists. In a statement today, the source pointed out that the terrorists had been arrested in the Governorates of al-Daqahliyah, al-Gharbiyah, al-Buhayrah, al-Minufiyah, al-Fayyum, Suez, Aswan, and al-Jizah.

Sidqi, Economic Group Discuss Cooperation

NC2710163393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1306 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—The Ministerial Economic Group today held its first meeting since the new cabinet was formed. The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

The prime minister said the conferees discussed cooperation between Egypt and the World Bank and the size of the aid and credit facilities that the bank will extend to Egypt in the upcoming period to finance major development projects.

Sidqi added that a delegation from the IMF will visit Egypt in early December for talks on the progress of the second phase of the economic reform program that was recently signed by Egypt and the IMF.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; the ministers of finance, economy, transport and communications; and the Central Bank governor.

Libya

Army Said Attacking Rebels After Coup Attempt

NC2810212193 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, Oct 28 (AFP)—Forces loyal to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on Thursday attacked hundreds of rebels dug in near a military base southeast of Tripoli, the main Libyan opposition group said here.

Muhammad Jibril, spokesman in Egypt for the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL), told AFP al-Qadhdhafi's forces who had surrounded the rebels "went into action" late Thursday, and Libya "closed its western border with Tunisia" to stop the rebels seeking refuge there.

The rebels fled after an abortive revolt at the Bani Walid military base on October 18, and took refuge in nearby hills, Jibril said earlier.

He called on the international community to "intervene and stop al-Qadhdhafi from slaughtering" the insurgents.

Last week the NFSL said officers, soldiers and civilians had occupied the base southeast of the coastal town of Misratah, which is 120 kilometers (75 miles) east of the capital Tripoli. Al-Qadhdhafi crushed the revolt with aerial bombardments, the NFSL said.

Jibril said Thursday nearly 1,500 rebels were arrested after the failed revolt, but others managed to escape to "neighbouring countries."

The authorities had increased checkpoints along the coastal road to catch fleeing rebels, Jibril added.

The Libyan government has strongly denied that any revolt took place.

List Wanted of Investors in Egypt, Sudan

LD2810212993 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] The secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity has asked committee members in the Basic People's Congresses to complete a register of popular investment [sijjil al-istithmar al-sha'bi], to hand over the lists of those registered who wish to invest and settle in the countries concerned [as heard], and to take these lists to the headquarters of the General People's Committee for Unity by mid-November this year at the latest.

In this respect, the secretariat issued the following statement: After we fought for over 20 years until we convinced the Arabs of the right of the Arab citizen to move, settle, work, and own property in the Arab homeland, and proceeding from the encouragements of the brother leader of the revolution on the need to head for the regions of activity [as heard] in the Arab homeland to invest and settle in them so as to avoid the dangers resulting from the unavailability of water resources facing the Arab nation now and in the future; and since the agreement on the four freedoms—the agreement on movement, residence, and workers and the agreement on owning property and benefitting from real estate and agricultural lands—signed with the Arab Republic of Egypt—has come into effect, in addition to the agreement on freedom of movement, residence, work, and property signed with the Republic of Sudan, and also the agreement to promote and guarantee investments so that they are the main support and help toward achieving the legal platform on which the rights of Arab citizenhood will be embodied; the General People's Committee is asking its members in the Basic People's Congresses to complete the register of popular investment and hand over the lists of those registered who wish to invest or settle in these Arab countries and to take these lists to the headquarters of the General People's Committee for Unity by mid-November 1993 at the latest.

Sudan

Minister: U.S. Striving 'To Interfere'

EA2810205093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, acting minister of Presidential Affairs, today met with a delegation from the Sudanese Council of Churches, led by (Ezekiel Konjok), the secretary general of the Sudanese Council of Churches.

Dr. al-Din briefed the delegation on the internal situation in the country, affirming the spirit of religious tolerance that prevails in Sudanese society. He dealt with the government's efforts to establish peace, explaining that the government had presented several options that were on the verge of leading to the signing of an agreement in principle with the rebel movement—except for the intervention of the U.S. Government. He explained that the United States strove, through the Washington symposium, to interfere in Sudan's internal affairs and to fragment its unity, and he pointed out in this respect the call made by the symposium for self-determination for what he called the people of southern Sudan, the Nubah Mountains, and the marginalized areas. Dr. al-Din affirmed that Sudan categorically rejects such submission, and it welcomes the efforts of IGADD [Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development] states, as well as, the initiative by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Nonparticipation in Peace Symposium Explained

EA2710192793 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Mr. 'Umar Baridu, first under-secretary of the Foreign Ministry, spoke at the ministry's information forum today. He stressed that Sudan welcomes efforts to achieve a national peace. His excellency explained that Sudan refused to participate in a Washington symposium set for 20-21 October, because the quarters invited to the symposium were opposition elements and the personalities described as academics were hostile to Sudan.

Moreover, the U.S. Congress Subcommittee for Africa had held a meeting to reconcile the rebel Garang and Riak Machar, which confirmed the non-neutrality of the U.S. Administration in dealing with issues concerning Sudan.

Mr. Baridu said the symposium had called for the right of self-determination for southern Sudan, and he expressed regret that Washington had adopted a slogan that would imply secession of the south from the north. He said that this event had halted the efforts made by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and that it was an encroachment on resolutions from summits by African states and the Inter-Governmental Agency for Drought and Development.

Spokesman: Washington 'Party to Conflict'

PM2810121693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Kamal Hamid, Nizar Daw-al-Na'im, and Hasan Sandarusi report: "Khartoum: Washington Seeking To Separate Southern Sudan"]

[Excerpts] Khartoum, London, Washington—The Sudanese Government has vehemently attacked the U.S. Administration, saying that it is behind the agreement between the two wings of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] on demanding self-determination for southern Sudan and other areas. "Thus it is seeking to ignite a war, not to achieve peace—which renders Washington unqualified to mediate to solve the Sudanese problem." However, a U.S. official has denied that the U.S. Administration organized the negotiations between the two wings of the movement "or invited them to visit Washington in the first place."

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Sudanese prime minister and leader of the Ummah party, has declined to comment on recent changes in the Sudanese Government, which included the appointment of Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir as president and the dissolution of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers. Al-Mahdi, who is under the authorities' observation, merely told AL-HAYAH that the change "has not dealt with the people's basic issues relating to freedoms and the alleviation of burdens in daily life."

In the first government comment on the agreement between leaders of the two wings of the SPLM, Colonel John Garang and Dr. Riek Mashar, in Washington at the end of last week, Dr. Ghazi Salah-al-Din, Sudanese minister for presidential affairs, told AL-HAYAH yesterday that "U.S. sponsorship of these negotiations, which demanded the continuation of the war and the separation of the south, renders Washington a party to the conflict advocating the continuation of the war and obstructing peace efforts." He wondered about the "undeclared agreement that caused Garang to urge his movement and those who split from him to begin military operations against the Sudanese Army." He added that "all this confirms that Washington is not interested in peace or Sudan's unity—which renders it unqualified to sponsor any peace negotiations." [passage omitted]

Mahdi Ibrahim, director of the Political Department at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, has said that "our information confirms that what happened in Washington was intended to unite the rebel factions in order to separate the south from the north and to enable these factions, by strengthening their military position, to exert further pressure on the government." He said that this orientation "is a new act of aggression which prepares the atmosphere for further war and destruction and aborts every endeavor to establish peace in the south."

The U.S. official pointed out that the Sudanese Government too received an invitation to attend a conference on Sudan organized by the African committee in the U.S. Congress, "but the government refused to attend. We were happy to offer our ideas and advice to those who took part in the conference, but we were not the quarter that brought them together."

In a related development, the Sudanese opposition Democratic National Grouping has announced that it is going to hold its fifth congress in London in the middle of next month to discuss the form of government in Sudan after the Sudanese Government is toppled. It is empowered by the political forces participating in it to refer to their organizations to prepare an integrated position on the southern Sudan issue, including the SPLM's demand for self-determination in the south of the country and other areas.

Faruq Abu-'Isa, who headed a meeting held by the grouping's leaders in Washington following a seminar organized by the U.S. Congress on the conflict in southern Sudan, has told AL-HAYAH that the meeting discussed the topics raised during the seminar and the developments that coincided with it, especially the announcement of the agreement between the two wings of the SPLM "and the arrangements for holding our fifth congress in the first half of next month. We expect it to be held in London."

He pointed out that the grouping had issued a press statement summing up the deliberations "and our assessment of the situation." He declined to talk specifically about the opposition's position on the agreement between the two wings of the SPLM on demanding self-determination. He pointed out that this issue falls "within our agreement that the forces participating in the grouping should refer to their organizations to define their position of the future of the issue." He added that the grouping's fifth congress will discuss the form of government in the country after the regime is toppled, allocation of the powers of the center and provinces, "and the final military and political arrangements for toppling the regime, in addition to other issues."

Al-Bashir Hails Ethiopia's Efforts in Somalia

EA2810125593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1753 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Oct (SUNA)—President Gen 'Umar al-Bashir Wednesday [27 October] praised the efforts of the Ethiopian president, Meles Zenawi, to solve the Somali problem, saying that Zenawi is qualified to play the role of mediation between the conflicting factions. Gen al-Bashir said in his regular meeting with media executives that the states of the region were capable of mediating between the Somali factions. He explained that the foreign interventions will only complicate problems, noting that the foreign powers did not come for humanitarian goals but they came to achieve strategic interests. He called for giving the Somali people [a] chance for solving their problems by themselves through mediation of the countries of the region and welcomed the orientation for solving the problem peacefully. Gen al-Bashir called on the Somali factions to listen to the voice of mind [voice of reason] and support Zenawi efforts to solve the problem.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Named Candidate in Presidential Election

LD2910143193 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] During today's first session, the Democratic Constitutional Assembly Central Committee decided to nominate His Excellency President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali as a candidate in the upcoming presidential elections.

Foreign Minister Holds Talks With Cheney

LD2610223493 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya held talks today with the U.S. secretary of defense. The U.S. official stated that these talks focused on numerous regional issues and matters of an international nature such as Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He expressed his satisfaction with the progress of bilateral cooperation, which he described as firm and continues to be consolidated.

Kuwaiti Company To Double Oil Production

LD2810174493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1405 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Tunis, 28 Oct—The Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company's Tunisian branch [Kufpec Ltd.] today announced plans to almost double its production of crude oil from a four-year-old Tunisian oilfield.

Robert Pankas, the director general of Kufpec Tunisia, told KUNA that the company would begin to increase its production capacity of crude oil from the Sidi El Kilani field to 10,000 barrels per day in November and to 15,000 barrels a day after completing expansion of its installations in April 1994.

Kufpec discovered Sidi El Kilani field, about 190 kilometers southeast of Tunis, in 1989. The company output is currently at 7,300 barrels per day.

Pankas said he was optimistic about oil reserves in the Sidi El Kilani area, adding that the company was studying the possibility of digging more wells in the Sidi El Kilani area and beyond soon.

The Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company is part of the Kuwait Petroleum Corp [KPC, state hydrocarbon giant] and has exploration operations in three other countries: Egypt, Indonesia, and Australia.

Kuwait

Likely Sentences for Bush Plotters Viewed

NC2910141893 Paris AFP in English 1354 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Report by Amani al-Sawi]

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, Oct 29 (AFP)—A Kuwait court is likely to pass stiff verdicts Saturday on an alleged plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush, with at least four Iraqis facing death sentences, defence lawyers said Friday.

Eleven Iraqi suspects and three Kuwaitis are accused in the state security court of planning to carry out a car-bomb attack on Bush, at the orders of the Iraqi intelligence service, during his visit to the emirate in mid-April.

Baghdad has denied any involvement in the attack, which the Kuwaiti authorities said they foiled by unearthing the bomb and rounding up the suspects.

"Four of the Iraqis ... could be condemned to death," said a defence lawyer, Najik Ukwain.

He noted that the first two, Ra'd Abd-al-Amir Al-Asadi and Wali Abd-al-Hadi al-Ghazali, had acknowledged links with Iraqi intelligence, while Salim and Bandar al-Shummari confessed to transporting explosives.

"Several of the co-defendants risk being condemned to heavy prison terms," other lawyers for the defence, which has called for clemency, told AFP. [passage omitted]

Ukrainian Official on Pipeline Projects

LD2810173293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1325 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 28 Oct (KUNA)—Speaking here today, Valeriy Kazakov, the Ukrainian deputy minister for the military-industrial complex and conversion, reiterated his country's stance supporting the release of the Kuwaiti captives and hostages in the Iraqi regime's prisons and the demarcation of the international border between Kuwait and Iraq. [passage omitted]

The Ukrainian official arrived in Kuwait last Sunday, heading an official delegation, at the invitation of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to familiarize himself with the commercial and industrial situation in Kuwait. He stated that Ukraine enjoys a high technical and industrial standard, particularly in the fields of oil industry and refinery and construction engineering.

He made clear that he brings with him a number of important proposals that he will put to the Kuwaiti officials in connection with the oil industry. He said that Ukraine has experience in oil refining and is geographically situated in Central Europe, which enables it to distribute oil products to West, East, and Central Europe. He stated that this advantage of experience in oil refining dates from the era of the former Soviet Union, and pointed out another advantage—the fact that industrial complexes are concentrated in Ukraine. Therefore, this situation would guarantee Kuwaiti oil the advantage of being distributed via pipelines which are already there and are connected with various parts of Europe. [passage omitted]

He expressed optimism over the development of commercial and industrial relations between Kuwait and Ukraine. He said that Ukrainian industrial proposals have already been presented to the relevant bodies in Kuwait and will lead to fruitful cooperation in the future. [passage omitted]

He stressed that Ukraine's intricate problem, which the international community should understand, is getting rid of nuclear weapons. That requires millions of dollars, he said. Kazakov confirmed that his country does not wish to exploit that weapon, especially since it has proven its good intentions by undergoing strict monitoring by the international community.

Kazakov stressed that his country does not intend to sell nuclear weapons on the outside market, although there are many countries prepared to pay large sums to obtain them. He pointed out that the difficulty of unilaterally getting rid of the nuclear stockpiles, which requires a great deal of money and a period of many years, would obstruct development and threaten progress in Ukraine. On the question of agreements on the removal of nuclear weapons, Kazakov said that there are agreements, and negotiations are under way with Russia and the United States on providing political and financial guarantees for the transportation of the long-range nuclear weapons from Ukraine to Russia for dismantling. Its nuclear warheads would then be returned to Ukraine for use for peaceful purposes such as the nuclear power stations in Ukraine.

Kazakov noted that some countries desire a quick political transformation in Ukraine and said: "For realistic, economic, and political reasons, we are unable to speed up our progress in that direction." He explained that a great many Ukrainian citizens have no faith in promises made by the West and international economic organizations wishing to help Ukraine economically. He said Ukraine has provided all possible facilities for experts and international committees who adjudged that steps taken to move into a market economy were in line with the requirements of these international organizations.

Kazakov stressed: "We have not yet reaped any tangible results, and the West treats us as if we were dead insects under a microscope, whereas in reality we are living and moving human beings. We hope the international community will treat us as a trustworthy international partner."

On Ukrainian ties with neighboring countries, which used to appear on the map of the former Soviet Union, Kazakov said that he felt that these countries desire to develop ties with Ukraine. He added, however: "It is important that we make an independent decision and choose the relations that suit our interests and reflect reciprocal gains." [passage omitted]

* Sources: Few 'Biduns' To Attain Citizenship

94P50019A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Kuwait, AL-HAYAH bureau—AL-HAYAH has learned from Kuwaiti security sources that Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah will present to the Kuwaiti Cabinet during its weekly session tomorrow the names of the chairman and members of the central committee on illegal residents' affairs. This is so that these names may be considered and prepared for the issuance of an Amiri decree on the committee.

The Cabinet announced the formation of this committee last week in order to deal with the problem of residents of indeterminate citizenship from the "Bidun" group, of whom there are 120,000 in Kuwait and of whom thousands are working in the military.

These sources mentioned that the current trend is to not permit citizenship to them except in the most extraordinary of cases. It is expected that not more than 3 percent of them will obtain citizenship when all is said and done. Among those cases which are being nominated for citizenship are the sons of Kuwaiti mothers divorced from fathers of indeterminate citizenship and other humanitarian cases.

The authorities believe that most of the Bidun individuals bear travel documents issued by countries neighboring Kuwait, such as Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. Officials have urged those belonging to the Bidun group to present their documents of origin and the expiration date for them before the end of the investigation into this problem and to submit them for legal interrogation on their illegal residency status.

Saudi Arabia

Joint Yemeni-Saudi Border Talks Session Held

PM2810164093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan: "Saudi-Yemeni Border Committee To Conclude Its Sixth Round of Negotiations Today"]

[Text] Riyadh—The second working session of the sixth round of negotiations concerning border demarcation between Saudi Arabia and Yemen was suspended suddenly yesterday. It was supposed to be held at 2100 hours yesterday.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources confirm that the two negotiating sides consulted their government yesterday evening to determine what formula they should submit to one another regarding the mechanism and principles governing negotiations over border demarcation between the two countries.

The sixth round is expected to be concluded today. The two negotiating sides are expected to present their views of one another's ideas on the principles that will govern the border negotiations.

But AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources pointed out that each party is committed—but without rigidity, as they put it—to its position on the foundations it believes are necessary as a mechanism for governing the negotiation process in the future.

However, these sources do not believe that the committee's work and task have reached an impasse, as both sides understand the difficulty of negotiating an important issue like the border issue. But their meetings are dominated by a friendly and brotherly atmosphere and a spirit of calm discussions.

The first session held the day before yesterday for the border experts committee was dominated by protocol, speeches of welcome and thanks for hospitality.

It has been confirmed that the two sides will continue the seventh round in Sanaa.

'No Significant Progress' Achieved

PM2910112893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Hasin al-Bunyan report: "No Progress in Saudi-Yemeni Border Committee Negotiations"]

[Text] Riyadh—The two sides of the Saudi-Yemeni committee assigned to discuss border demarcation between the two countries came out of the final session of the sixth round of negotiations held yesterday evening in Riyadh, which was preceded by a session in the morning, with no significant progress toward agreeing on a formula regarding the shape of the measures and principles that will govern demarcation negotiations between the two countries with a view to concluding a final agreement in the future.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources say that the negotiating teams are not worried over the negotiation's failure so far to discuss the fundamental issue, that is, agreeing on a mechanism that defines frameworks for the negotiations to demarcate the border in the future.

The sources pointed out that the two sides are still at the stage of exchanging memorandums, ideas, and views of this mechanism. The two sides are not alarmed that there are differences of views between them.

The sources revealed that the discussions at the final session in Riyadh revolved around the Yemeni memorandum submitted to the Saudi side at the meetings of the fifth round held in Ta'izz.

The two sides believe that the existence of a serious and sincere desire on both sides to continue the meetings is an important factor, in order to reach in the future an agreement acceptable to both sides. The Yemeni negotiating team will leave Riyadh at Midday today after agreeing to hold the seventh round in Sanaa.

Joint Press Release on Talks

LD2810153893 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1435 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 28 Oct (SPA)—Ja'far Basalih, head of the Yemeni side in the joint Saudi-Yemeni border experts' committee, and members of the Yemeni side in the committee, left Riyadh for Sanaa at precisely 1300 today. The delegation departed at the end of the sixth round of negotiations that took place in Riyadh city between 25 and 28 October 1993. [passage omitted] The committee issued the following joint press communique:

The joint Saudi-Yemeni border experts' committee held its sixth round in Riyadh city from 25 to 28 October. The committee resumed its deliberations on the committee's tasks and the negotiations procedures concerning the borders between the two countries. The committee will continue meetings in the seventh round of talks in the city of Sanaa, God willing, on Monday 20 December 1993.

The Yemeni side in the joint Saudi-Yemeni border experts' committee left Riyadh for Sanaa. The head and members of the Saudi side and Ghalib 'Ali Jamil, Yemen's ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, saw them off. The Yemeni side thanked the head and members of the Saudi side for their welcome, good reception, and hospitality.

Yemen

Al-Bid's Sons Escape Assassination Attempt

NC2910110093 Paris AFP in English 1027 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Aden, Yemen, Oct 29 (AFP)—Gunmen shot dead a relative of Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid near the southern Yemeni city of Aden on Friday, while two of al-Bid's sons narrowly escaped injury in the attack, police said.

Kamal 'Abd-Al al-Hamad was hit by more than 30 bullets. Police said his cousins Nayif and Yanuf al-Bid dived for cover behind a parked car and escaped unhurt.

The assailants fled by car after the attack in the town of al-Mansurah.

The vice president has kept away from Sanaa for the last two months, staying in Aden, after demanding that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih set up a major programme of reforms to combat Yemen's economic crisis.

"The attack was a message for al-Bid because he has taken a tougher stand" in his dispute with Salih, said an official of the vice president's Yemen Socialist Party, which shares power with the president's General People's Congress.

The official said al-Bid's eldest son 'Adnan had been threatened over the telephone just two days earlier.

The attack was a blow for the May 1990 unification of North and South Yemen as well as for efforts to reconcile Salih and al-Bid, he said, declining to be named.

Dozens of demonstrators angry at spiralling prices tried to set fire to foreign exchange booths in Ta'iz, Yemen's third-largest city, on Wednesday, before being chased away by troops.

The demonstrators were protesting at massive inflation caused by a recent plummet in the value of the riyal against the dollar.

Interior Minister Denies Assassination Plot

PM2810121093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Khayrallah Khayrallah: "Replying to Socialist Party's Fears, al-Mutawakkil: No Party Can Make Threats"]

[Text] Sanaa—Yemeni Interior Minister Yahya al-Mutawakkil told AL-HAYAH yesterday that he is adhering to his statement denying the existence of a plan to assassinate Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaders. He expressed his belief that "none of the ruling coalition parties has the ability to threaten any other party."

YSP security sources stressed in statements that AL-HAYAH published last Sunday that "the security organ concerned with guarding the party's members has uncovered a very carefully planned scheme aimed at physically liquidating a number of the party's leaders and cadres, first and foremost 'Ali Salim al-Bid, member of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the YSP Central Committee."

Citing the fear dominating some partisan circles in Yemen, al-Mutawakkil said that he "does not believe there is a real threat to anyone. But in the context of the exchange of accusations and provocations, some people tend to utter harsh expressions that are merely spontaneous expressions uttered by a provocative person, but others tend to consider them a threat... But I do not think that matters go beyond that context."

The Yemeni interior minister's statements come at a time when the country is experiencing its worst political crisis since it recovered its unity on 22 May 1990, a time when ordinary citizens have begun to talk openly about the existence of separatist intentions among some parties. The concern dominating the scene has affected the economic situation, as the dollar's value has risen on the black market to about 75 riyals. It was about 45 riyals some two weeks ago.

Politicians and party officials in Sanaa unanimously agree on the depth of the political crisis, especially as al-Bid's seclusion in Aden has entered its third month, and there are still no indications of the possibility of his returning to Sanaa soon. One politician said that the only hope for a breakthrough depends on the efforts being made by foreign quarters, first and foremost Sultan Qabus [of Oman] and the Jordanian leadership.

A high-level partisan source has spoken about efforts exerted recently and which have succeeded in putting an end to the deterioration of the political situation and led to an agreement between the two big parties (the General People's Congress and the YSP) on discussion points that could form a prelude to a settlement returning the political situation to normal. In the forefront of these points is control over the media services belonging to the two parties, with a view to putting an end to the media campaigns exchanged between them, which has contributed to straining the atmosphere. As for the other notable points to be discussed, they relate primarily to the Army's status and efforts to speed up its unification and administrative noncentralism. The source also pointed out that these points are currently being discussed in joint committees supervised by a committee which includes, from the YSP, Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas; Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'-aman, chairman of the party's secretariat; and Jarallah 'Umar, culture minister and member of the Political Bureau. It includes from the General People's Congress three leaders, namely Dr. Hasan Makki, Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, and Isma'il al-Wazir.

President Denies Report of 'Political Crisis'

JN2910124493 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, has stressed that there is no political crisis, as claimed by certain news organizations that probably do not understand the special Yemeni reality, but that there are differences in opinions and various readings of certain issues among the political forces, particularly among the members of the government coalition—the General People's Congress, the Yemeni Socialist Party, and the Yemeni Reform Grouping. These differences, he added, are natural in the [word indistinct] course of democracy and pluralism, and members of the coalition and opposition parties are now conducting a dialogue to remove these differences and work together to resolve issues within the framework of common ground and objectives, and national (?unity).

These statements came from an interview with the president published in a recent issue of the Lebanese magazine AL-HAWADITH.

The brother president said: I do not think that the differences that occurred over the Presidential Council or the constitutional amendments can be considered a political crisis, as suggested (?by the question). We only had differences of opinion that sought to arrive at a formula satisfactory to all sides and achieve national interests. This happens in any democratic country.

Socialist Party Confirms Dialogue Has Begun

PM2810122693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Khayrallah Khayrallah: "Salih Speaks of 'Red Lines;' Socialist Party Confirms Dialogue Has Begun"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa—Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, yesterday confirmed the existence of a dialogue among the ruling coalition parties to extricate the country from the current situation. "There are red lines that cannot be crossed at all, whatever the dispute and the disagreement." During his meeting with members of the chambers of commerce and industry and a group of businessmen from various governorates, he pointed out that the "red lines are represented in not harming unity and not resorting to violence or pushing the Armed Forces or security forces into political and partisan conflict."

'Ali Salih told the delegations that came to congratulate him on his reelection that "the government coalition parties are currently busy discussing all the issues raised." Next to the chairman of the Presidential Council were Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping participating in the coalition, and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zandani, member of the Presidential Council.

Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, chairman of the Socialist Party secretariat, confirmed the existence of this dialogue. He told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that the aim is to reach an agreement among the coalition parties "and that the dialogue is proceeding well" and may lead to a meeting among senior officials from the three coalition parties. Asked at what level would the expected meeting be held, he said he could not determine the level, "but the intention is to hold a meeting to look for a way out."

For the second day, the belief prevails among political circles in Sanaa that the deterioration has been stopped with regard to the crisis the country is experiencing. But party officials are concerned that the continuation of the deadlock may lead to a new reality in the country, especially as there are daily reports—some correct and others exaggerated—about measures which remind one of the days of partition. In this context political circles in Sanaa have complained that while Defense Minister Brigadier Haytham Qasim is organizing an extensive campaign among the Armed Forces stationed in the southern and eastern governorates to stress their neutrality toward political conflicts, he has been faced with the refusal to carry out orders issued by the Defense Ministry and the general staff to officials in charge of depots belonging to the Army in Aden. These orders were for issuing military training equipment for some military formations which moved from the north to the south. There have been reports in Sanaa that military men have not been allowed to return to the south after spending their leave with their families. [passage omitted]

Philippine Parliamentary Delegation Ends Visit

Foreign Minister Receives Team

JN2710174993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today received Omughdo Yonduk, vice chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Philippine Parliament, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two officials reviewed relations between Iraq and the Philippines and ways of promoting them in the service of the interests of the two countries. They exchanged views on a number of international issues of joint interest.

The meeting was attended by Anwar Mawlud Dhiban, head of the [Foreign Ministry's] Third Political Department.

Saddam Orders Release of Citizen

JN2810174993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1727 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a letter from Philippine President Fidel Ramos.

Omughdo Yonduk, vice chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Philippine Parliament and President Fidel Ramos' envoy, delivered the message.

Yonduk conveyed to President Saddam Husayn greetings from President Fidel Ramos, the parliament, and the Philippine people, and the Philippine president's wishes of lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq and of resuming economic and trade relations between the two countries.

In his letter, the Philippine president asked President Saddam Husayn to examine the release of a Philippine citizen who had earlier entered Iraq illegally. President Saddam Husayn ordered the release of this citizen and asked the envoy to convey his greetings to President Fidel Ramos and to the Philippine Parliament and people.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf attended the meeting.

Parliamentary Delegation Departs

JN2810210993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—Omughdo Yonduk, vice chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Philippine Parliament, left Baghdad today following a five-day visit to Iraq.

Yonduk expressed his satisfaction with the results of his visit to Iraq, and his happiness with meeting President Saddam Husayn who honored him by responding to the Philippine president's request of releasing a Philippine citizen who had earlier entered Iraq illegally.

Al-Zubaydi Addresses Sixth Arab Workers' Rally

JN2810173693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—The activities of the sixth Arab workers rally in solidarity with Iraq began here today under the slogan "The Arab Workers Are in Iraq's Trench in Defense of Arab, Islamic, and Human Values." The rally will last two days.

President Saddam Husayn has instructed Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and secretary of the party's central bureau of trade unions and popular organizations, to represent him at the rally.

The rally began with recitation from the holy Koran and the opening chapter of the Koran on the souls of the martyrs of Iraq and the Arab nation.

The president's representative delivered a speech in which he conveyed the president's greetings to Arab workers, blessed their support for justice and right, and praised their genuine pan-Arab affiliation and strong faith in supporting Iraq. [passage omitted]

The president's representative said: You have proved your genuine pan-Arab position during the Mother of Battles when you staged demonstrations in Arab cities in support of Iraq. Iraq was your main concern. You have shared with its sons the loaf of bread and the dose of medicine, donated blood and funds, and volunteered to help your Iraqi brothers.

He stressed: Having the chaste builders of life and Arab toilers on its side is Iraq's great asset. However, the enemies were supported by their tools, the agents and traitors, who constitute the enemies' reserve to impose their control over the nation's resources and wealth. Regardless of the tools and the means that the enemies use, this will not last long. The nation will confront them with volcanoes of anger and fire, because the nation has never capitulated to tyranny and injustice, and will never relinquish its resources and its rights.

In his speech, Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi hailed the Somali Arab people's struggle against the invading forces and their heroic confrontation of these forces. He also praised the Libyan masses' struggle against the Zionist-imperialist blockade and the fabricated political and media campaign against them. He also lauded the fraternal Sudanese people's steadfastness in the face of lies and enemy schemes. Al-Zubaydi also saluted the strong and entrenched Yemeni cohesion and unity. [passage omitted]

He said: Iraq was the first to expose the dangers posed by the U.S. policy, the seriousness of imposing its hegemony on international institutions, and the use of these institutions as a tool of aggression, occupation, and blackmail. This, he added, proves that future is for the sound and firm stand, that the winner is the one who guarantees that history and right are on his side, and that loss lies in deceiving oneself about transient changes and by the signs of influence that surface in international politics.

He warned against being deceived by transient events, by the mirage of erroneous policies, and the consequent mistakes and pitfalls, and against replacing major issues with small, transient, and temporary gains regarding future calculations. He said that this could act against the nation, its objectives and rights. He also stressed Iraq's firm and resolute support for Arab struggle, for inalienable Arab rights, and for the Arab mujahidins' defense of Arab rights anywhere in the Arab homeland. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Receives Bulgarian Parliamentarians

JN2810143193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir has received Zakhari Zakhariev and Ivan Palchev, members of the Bulgarian National Assembly.

During the meeting, the prime minister affirmed Iraq's willingness to promote Bulgarian-Iraqi ties in the interest of the two friendly peoples. He asked the guest delegation to relay a verbal message to the Bulgarian prime minister on ways to promote ties of cooperation between Iraq and Bulgaria.

For his part, Bulgarian Deputy Zakhari Zakhariev relayed the greetings of the Bulgarian prime minister to the prime minister, as well as Bulgaria's desire to enhance and promote ties with Iraq, and activate the work of the Joint Bulgarian-Iraqi Committee.

The Bulgarian parliamentarian affirmed that the embargoes imposed on Iraq, Libya, and the former Yugoslavia have caused the Bulgarian people to sustain enormous losses amounting to $11 billion—a huge amount for Bulgaria.

Zakhariev expressed the hope that the embargo imposed on Iraq will be lifted very soon. The meeting was attended by the cabinet secretary.

Communications Links Via Indian Satellite To Resume

JN2710161193 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad Oct 26, INA—Iraq would shortly resume its communications via the Indian satellite with the countries of south and south-east Asia, India, Pakistan, Australia and Japan, AL-JUMHURIYAH daily has said today.

The daily has quoted the director-general of Communications and Post State Establishment 'Abd al-Razzak al-'Ani as saying that the establishment's cadres and those of Military Industry Commission have completed reconstruction of al-Dujayl ground station for communications that had been subject to destruction during the U.S.-led aggression.

Mr al-'Ani has made it clear that the al-Dujayl ground station would provide telephone and Telex and television direct communications via an Indian satellite, pointing that Baghdad would next month ask the world organization for space communications carrying out necessary tests on the station and allowing it resuming work.

Suicide Bombing, Raid Against Officials Reported

NC2710174693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] A heroic struggler has carried out a suicide attack against an office of the ruling [Ba'th] party in the struggler city of al-Basrah. Our sources reported that the struggler, Khalid Hasan Kindi, drove a booby-trapped car into the targeted party office while a meeting of senior regime henchmen was in progress. The conferees included security, party, and intelligence officials.

The suicide operation killed 15 and wounded 20 people who were attending the meeting.

In a related story, heroic mujahidin in al-Majarr al-Kabir, in al-'Amarah [Maysan] Governorate, attacked senior regime henchmen one night last week while the latter were holding a meeting to discuss ways to confront the escalating mujahidin's operations against the tyrant Saddam's forces and lackeys. Reliable sources in the Iraqi opposition reported that al-Majarr's district commissioner, its security director, four [Ba'th] party members, and seven other mercenaries were killed when the mujahidin fired a hail of bullets at them.

After successfully executing the operation, the mujahidin withdrew from the scene and returned safely to their base.

Official: Embargo Not Being Implemented 'Seriously'

NC2710174493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] A Ba'th official has admitted that the embargo imposed on Iraq is not being implemented seriously and that UN officials are violating this embargo. Shawqi al-Qubaysi, head of the Iraqi Chamber of Commerce, said that UN observers receive $7,000 from Iraqi officials in return for each truck allowed to carry assistance to their master's regime.

These admissions appeared in the Turkish newspaper ZAMAN. The paper was citing remarks al-Qubaysi made to an audience of Turkish investors and merchants in Ankara. The United Nations has imposed a feeble blockade on Iraq, al-Qubaysi stated.

In an attempt to elicit the sympathy of Turkish officials, al-Qubaysi said that the embargo has placed a heavy burden on Turkey. He added that Iraq no longer receives the goods it used to import from Turkey. The continuation of the flow of merchandise to Iraq hinges upon the leniency [tasamuh] of Turkish officials, al-Qubaysi noted.

Soccer Team Urged To Succeed, To Raise Flag in U.S.

JN2810093593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 (INA)—Iraqi newspapers today state that the Iraqi national soccer team will today play its decisive and final match in its world championship qualifying match with Japan with a combative spirit, because it will be playing only to win. And winning, the paper adds, is the only way for it to reach the Mondial finals in the United States.

In an article published on its sports page today, the newspaper AL-'IRAQ says that winning this match means that the team would raise the banner of "God is Great" in the United States. Such a victory would also mean that the Iraqis have not been weakened by the embargo imposed by the unjust parties.

The paper urges the players of the Iraqi national team on to victory, saying that the hearts of all Iraqis are with them. The Iraqi people want the players to bring the glad tidings of victory to their people and to all Arabs so that the aggressors may be forced to see the Iraqi flag fluttering high in the United States.

AL-QADISIYAH newspaper says that the qualification of the Iraqi soccer team for the Mondial finals is neither difficult, nor easy.

In an article entitled "Let Us Win, And Allow Developments To Take Their Course," the paper expects the match between the Iraqi national team and the Japanese team today to be sensational. This match will prove that the Iraqi soccer team is the best in Asia, the paper says.

The paper affirms that the possibility of victory by the Iraqi team, coupled with the likelihood of Saudi Arabia and the ROK drawing or losing, is there and strong. It cannot be ruled out. So, the Iraqi team must play only to win.

In a sports article entitled "The Road to the World Cup," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The Asian qualifying matches have been marked by excitement, anticipation, and fear. Given the matches to be played by the strongest three teams, the situation of our team, today, is reassuring. However, we must keep our fingers crossed, pray for the team's success, and wait to see the results.

Saddam Receives Army Air Force Director, Officers

JN2810185793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1838 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has received the director of the Army Air Force, who holds the rank of a pilot staff lieutenant general, and a number of the directorate's officers.

His excellency congratulated the hero helicopter pilots and all the personnel at the Army Air Force Directorate on the occasion of helicopter day.

24-25 Oct 'Violations' Protested to Arab League

JN2910110293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Oct (INA)—Aircraft from the United States, Britain, and France have violated Iraqi airspace, using facilities provided by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In a letter to the Arab League secretary general, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab league says that on 24 and 25 October, these aircraft took off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to violate Iraq's airspace and conducted 82 hostile sorties, thus threatening Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

Iraq's permanent envoy asked that the letter be distributed to the Arab member states.

Rabin May Move Up Washington Visit to November

TA2810155593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin might move up his visit to Washington in November. Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan reports that the visit might start on 12 November, but the date has still not been finalized. This means Secretary of State Warren Christopher's trip to the Middle East will be postponed, and the next round of peace talks in Washington will begin in December.

Israeli sources in Washington said Israel does not plan to hold up the negotiations with Syria, and the talks can be speeded up if agreement is reached on a meeting between President al-Asad and Prime Minister Rabin or between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The prime minister conferred today with an American Jewish Congress delegation touring the Middle East in an effort to revoke the Arab boycott on Israel. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the delegation reported to Mr. Rabin on their meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, and the leaders of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. They said they received the impression that the Israeli-PLO agreement is being supported in the Arab capitals. The prime minister told his guests that Israel is interested in continuing the negotiations under the Madrid format and to hold a dialogue with the other participants—Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. He noted that the PLO's ability to take responsibility for jobs, education, communal living, the economy, and other matters will be made known soon. Rabin also said having the Taba talks open to the media impedes progress.

Peres Views Elections, Self-Rule, Settlements

TA2810181593 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Oct 93 pp 1, 14

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, by Da'ud Kuttab at Peres' office in Tel Aviv; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Kuttab] How do you assess progress in the peace talks since the Declaration of Principles was signed?

[Peres] The agreement has a timetable. We signed it on 13 September and the talks began on 13 October, as agreed. We anticipated that problems would arise, such as misunderstanding and growing expectations. This is natural, and we are aware of them.

We continue to believe that the agreement will succeed. The test of this agreement is not in its words and letters but in making it a practical model and testimony for the Israeli public. A neighbor who makes you feel calm is a good neighbor, while a disturbed neighbor will be a bad neighbor. We are interested in the Palestinians' success. I say to our Palestinian friends that success should not be conditional on success in the political sphere. Real success is economic success. A political agreement will not persevere if the residents of Gaza, Jericho, and the other areas do not sense concrete improvement in their living standards. We must not disappoint them.

I am apprehensive about the growing propaganda and rhetoric accompanying the negotiations. I prefer the cologne used after shaving to the one before.

[Kuttab] You spoke about improving the living conditions of Palestinians. Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had talked about confidence-building steps, but those steps have been too little and too late. Do you have any good news with regard to the prisoners?

[Peres] This matter will take one or two weeks. The peace train has taken off. Building a new future requires one to leave behind the mistrust, skepticism, and fear. The problem is changing this situation into a good future. It is not a simple problem, but despite this I am optimistic.

[Kuttab] Are you saying that all the prisoners will be released within weeks?

[Peres] Yes. Most of them will be released within weeks.

[Kuttab] The Palestinian side feels that the issue of the prisoners is being used by Israel as pressure on the Palestinians. For example, some Israelis are saying: If you agree to our security plan, we will release your prisoners. What is your view on this?

[Peres] What did we gain in return for releasing 600 detainees? If this had been the logic, why didn't we pursue it when we released the prisoners? I do not believe that this is so. The issue of the prisoners is not subject to bargaining. We were subjected to criticism after the two soldiers were killed in Khan Yunus, but this did not change our view.

All these doubts and criticisms stem from yesterday's thinking. Some people continue to talk, make speeches, and raise pretexts as if nothing has changed. The world has changed and so have we. This change is taking place all over the world. [passage omitted]

[Kuttab] Elections are slated to be held within nine months. Is it possible that Israel will back down from the idea of elections?

[Peres] No.

[Kuttab] Even if the PLO were to demand that?

[Peres] This concerns them, but we heartily hope that real democracy will be established in the Arab world. The Palestinian experience could be the first one. I believe that nothing will save the Arab world better than democracy. Why shouldn't the Palestinians begin the democratic experience? They have learned a great deal about our own democracy. This will be the right start.

[Kuttab] The agreement contains two different terms, "withdrawal" and "redeployment of forces." Can you explain the difference between them if there is any, because many Palestinians feel that there is no difference between these two terms?

[Peres] The difference must be explained in practical terms. You Palestinians and we Israelis have a custom whereby a problem is changed into an ideological one. This makes it difficult to solve that problem. I favor practical solutions. The PLO was in the diaspora for a long time and gave great prominence to expressions and statements. This overshadows the practical aspect. The difference between these two terms must be resolved on the ground, not by adhering to expressions.

[Kuttab] There is a problem in the Taba talks which is the contradiction between the call for Israeli withdrawal on one hand, and protection of the settlers on the other. Do you have any ideas for solving this problem?

[Peres] Let them solve this problem among themselves in Taba. I do not wish to add an 11th commandment to the talks. There are ten commandments and that is enough.

[Kuttab] Do you have an idea about the date for expanding self-rule from Gaza and Jericho to other areas?

[Peres] This will depend on the Washington talks in which three issues will be negotiated. First, elections and the powers of the council that will be elected. Second, early transfer of authority. Third, expansion of the self-rule area. We have decided to speedily implement part of the agreement. You are sensing this in practice. Other issues will be discussed later.

[Kuttab] Can self-rule be expanded within months?

[Peres] I prefer to be precise regarding dates. I cannot indulge in any speculation. At best I can only talk about 50 percent of the issue, which is the Israeli side.

[Kuttab] What is the Israeli perception of the issue?

[Peres] The point is not perception but readiness. We are ready to do that within months.

[Kuttab] What is the settlement situation at present?

[Peres] It is normal.

[Kuttab] Can one say that the expansion of settlements has stopped?

[Peres] We stopped settlement activity ourselves before the recent agreement. [passage omitted]

[Kuttab] How do you envisage the final solution?

[Peres] A plan similar to that of the Benelux countries should be drawn up, creating an economic union between Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian areas. It will be difficult to separate the borders and place custom points in every intersection. This is a triangle, and we have to safeguard all the sides.

The first problem that I foresee is the relationship between the Palestinians and Jordan, not with Israel. An economic triangle must be drawn up in the coming stage. Let us try to test economic freedom without customs—a modern economy. This is not a condition but a proposal. I know of no other solution to extremism, which is caused by poverty, other than raising the living standard. I believe that a neighbor in a good economic situation is the best solution to security. For example, one million tourists are better than 10,000 UN soldiers.

[Kuttab] When will be able to travel to Amman by car?

[Peres] As far as I am concerned the car is there and so is the road. The solution must come from the other party and the sooner the better.

[Kuttab] With regard to the Syrian issue, why must Syria explain the concept of peace while Israel refuses to state its readiness for a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights?

[Peres] Announcing withdrawal is a precondition. No one accepts to engage in negotiations on the basis of the other side's negotiating line. Even with Egypt we reached three agreements. I believe that Syria accepts the strategy of peace but is pursuing the tactic of opposing the talks. How will this end? If we want peace we must talk directly and indirectly, openly and secretly. Syria is demanding something tangible, and we are demanding from it something that is not tangible. We are supposed to return land to them, and they are supposed to give us promises!

[Kuttab] What is the solution?

[Peres] We should work to find solutions. There are precedents and examples: Camp David and Oslo.

[Kuttab] Do you have any message to the Palestinian people?

[Peres] All I can say is that despite the difficulties we have implemented every word that we said. We shall implement all our promises. The Middle East can become Europe and Asia or fail as did many African countries. We do not need the assistance of anyone from outside. The solution is in our hands. Regrettably, people prefer recollection to thinking. We have to recollect less and think more.

Rabinovich Denies 'Secret' Talks with Syria

TA2910110693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, by Uri Paz and Pnina Bat-Tzvi on 29 October—recorded]

[Text] [Paz] Earlier today, we spoke with Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States. We asked him whether he could confirm or deny the reports of progress in the negotiations with Syria.

[Rabinovich] No. I regret to say that this report is unfounded and incorrect. There are currently no active negotiations between Israel and Syria. The last contacts between the two countries took place last week during the visit of Dennis Ross, the U.S. peace coordinator, to the region. Right now, no Syrian-Israeli negotiations are being held anywhere.

[Paz] Perhaps there is a secret negotiations track between Syria and Israel?

[Rabinovich] Theoretically, there can always be some secret track I do not know about; however, in Syria's case, as opposed to other cases, the Syrians are negotiating both with Israel and also with the United States. They are holding peace negotiations with Israel, but they are also negotiating with the United States on establishing a dialogue between Damascus and Washington. These two negotiations tracks are linked. Therefore, the likelihood of a secret negotiations track that the United States is not party to is very small.

[Bat-Tzvi] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday received a letter from British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd which reported on the latter's meetings in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Douglas Hurd wrote that he was convinced that the Syrians were prepared to negotiate with Israel.

[Rabinovich] We are familiar with the contents of the British foreign minister's letter. The great revelation in the letter was not the fact that Syria is prepared to negotiate with us. We know that. We are actually...

[Bat-Tzvi, interrupting] What then was the great revelation in Douglas Hurd's letter?

[Rabinovich] There were several interesting details that I naturally cannot speak about. There was no breakthrough, but the British foreign minister definitely held interesting and meaningful talks in Damascus. But negotiations are still under way between Syria and Israel. This negotiations track is currently dormant between the rounds of talks; however, there is nothing new about Syria's actual readiness to negotiate with us. What is required is that the Syrians move forward both with regard to the substantive issues currently on the agenda and also on procedural issues, on the format of the negotiations. As soon as they are ready to make progress the negotiations will become much easier.

[Paz] With regard to the substantive issues, is Syria most concerned about fears that it will remain isolated in the Arab world? The Syrian foreign minister even voiced this concern in his meeting with Douglas Hurd.

[Rabinovich] Syria fears that it will be isolated in the wake of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Damascus fears that it will be left behind.

[Paz] Do they have any cause for such fears?

[Rabinovich] Not as far as Israel is concerned. Both Israel and the United States, in its own way, have clarified that both Washington and Jerusalem want to reach a comprehensive settlement between the Arab world and Israel. There can be no comprehensive settlement between Israel and the Arabs without Syria. We remain determined and serious about reaching an agreement with Syria. At this particular stage, we prefer to focus on the implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians and on a greater normalization in our ties with the Arab world. When discussing negotiations with Syria in the limiting terms imposed by the Syrians, it is very difficult to make progress right now.

[Bat-Tzvi] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is due to arrive in Damascus today. Is Israel relaying Syrian President al-Asad any messages through Mubarak?

[Rabinovich] No. I think that President Mubarak is bearing a message from the Americans. He has just concluded a visit to Washington. Mubarak met with President Clinton, and both men discussed issues relating to Syria. They also issued some statements to the press in Washington. I think that in Damascus, President Mubarak will make similar statements to the ones I just made here. In other words, he can apprise his Syrian hosts of his first hand impression that President Clinton is prepared to make serious efforts to promote the negotiations between Israel and Syria at the appropriate time.

[Paz] The media has reported that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is bringing forward his visit to Washington and he will arrive on 12 November. Dennis Ross will subsequently fly in the Middle East, while Secretary of State Christopher will only arrive in the region at the end of November. The peace talks will officially resume in Washington at the beginning of December. Could you confirm the aforementioned schedule?

[Rabinovich] Yes, that is how things look right now. One should not attach exaggerated political significance to the fact that the prime minister has brought forward his visit to Washington. The main reason for that was the fact that 12 November was a convenient date in both the prime minister's and the U.S. President's timetables.

[Paz] Thank you very much, Ambassador Rabinovich.

Al-Asad: Do Not 'Isolate' Syria in Talks

TA2910095093 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Oct 93 pp 1, 10

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad fears that Israel is trying to isolate Syria from the Arab world and reach separate agreements with the other Arab states and the Palestinians.

Al-Asad raised his concern in a meeting he held several days ago with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

Al-Asad told Hurd about his readiness to renew the bilateral negotiations with Israel, "as long as there is a serious chance to make progress in the process."

Yesterday, in a message to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Hurd reported about his talks with al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The following is the full version of the message:

Mr. Minister,

I thought you would like to receive a short report on my visit to Syria. During the visit, I held separate talks with President al-Asad and Foreign Minister al-Shar'.

I am convinced that the Syrians are prepared to hold negotiations in order to reach a settlement with Israel. Al-Asad told me that he is committed to the Madrid conference and that Syria will return to the negotiating table with Israel as long as there is a serious chance to make progress in the process. Behind his criticism of Israel, as he calls it, there is the assumption that Israel is trying to divide and weaken the Arabs. Al-Asad fears that Syria will remain isolated in the Arab world. Al-Asad confirmed to me that Syria will neither support nor oppose the agreement achieved between Israel and the PLO.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' reiterated to me that Syria has not observed preparations by the Palestinian Rejectionist Front operating from its soil for violent opposition to the Israeli-PLO accord.

I understand that Israel will need time for its public to digest the agreement with the PLO. Nevertheless, I hope that you will soon be able to build on the progress already achieved on the Syrian track in the negotiations with Israel. I hope that, as President al-Asad told me, Israel will not try to leave Syria to the end of the negotiating process. As aforesaid, the Syrians are prepared to renew the bilateral negotiations, and I believe it is important that it be done before the end of the current year."

The British foreign secretary told Peres that he accepted his invitation to pay an official visit to Israel on 3 January, 1994.

Meanwhile, the efforts to arrange a summit meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and al-Asad as a way out of the deadlock the contacts between the two states have reached continue. That will be one of the main issues in the talks Rabin will hold with President Clinton in the White House in the second week of November.

Lebanese Weekly Reports Golan Accord With Syria

TA2910084593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The Lebanese newspaper AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI reports that the United States is currently working to bridge the gaps between Israel and Syria with regard to the security arrangements on the Golan Heights. This, after, as the newspaper reports, Damascus and Jerusalem have agreed to a full Israeli withdrawal in exchange for a full normalization in relations between the two countries. Our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck reports:

The report in AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI is yet another in a series of reports claiming that Syria and Israel have already agreed in principle to a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for full peace and normalization. The Arab weekly bases its report on senior Western sources, including U.S. officials, who said that the unofficial negotiations between Syria and Israel are currently focusing on the details of the security arrangements. According to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, ever since the signing of the agreement between the PLO and Israel, Washington has stepped up the secret contacts between Jerusalem and Damascus, in an attempt to speed up the unofficial negotiations for a peace agreement between the two countries. The report claims that the following issues are currently being discussed in the contacts, which are handled by Edward Djerejian: the nature of the security arrangements, the scope and depth of the demilitarized zones on both sides of the yet to be demarcated international border, the timetable for the Israeli withdrawal, the size of the U.S. monitoring force that will be stationed on the Golan Heights, and the duration of its stay. According to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, Israel insisted on special security arrangements on the Golan Heights in exchange for its withdrawal. [passage omitted]

Intelligence Officer Views Threats to Peace Process

TA2810114793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Oct 93 p A4

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Text] The peace process is facing two major threats: radical Islam and increasing military capabilities in the Middle East. This was stated by Brigadier General 'Ami Dror, deputy head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, in a speech before a seminar on "Changes in the European and Middle East Maps" at the [Hebrew University's] Shasha Institute for International Seminars, held at the Israel Museum two days ago.

Brig. Gen. Dror explained that "as a result, the euphoria that followed the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement should be restrained. It should be understood that even if the region is moving toward peace, significant threats exist nonetheless."

According to Gen. Dror, "radical Islamic movements have been developing in several countries in the region, such as Egypt, Algeria, and Jordan, for reasons not necessarily related to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Dror believes that the threat posed by the spread of radical Islam is that it could seize power in several countries in the region, thus removing them from the circle of peace.

He also estimated that "even if a state of peace is established as a result of the current negotiations, Israel and the Arab countries will still have to deal with the threat of radical Muslim terrorism, led by Iran."

Dror noted that "Iran has an organized network around the world which it can activate to serve the needs of Islamic terror." He added that "it is very difficult to penetrate this network in order to obtain intelligence information on it."

Gen. Dror presented the example of the blast at the Twin Towers in New York City. He added that "over the past few months, Palestinian organizations, such as the Popular and the Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine, have also significantly stepped up their attempts to carry out terror attacks from Lebanon."

The deputy head of the Intelligence Branch sees the procurement of arms by several countries in the region as yet another fundamental threat. According to him, "some 1,000 Soviet-made tanks have arrived in the region over the past several years."

"Russia also sells arms to Iran," Dror claimed, adding "that it even provided Iran with two submarines." According to him, "Syria and Iran are trying to develop sophisticated missiles with the help of countries such as the DPRK."

Gen. Dror believes that Iran is trying to develop nuclear arms and might complete the development in eight to 10 years, perhaps even sooner.

He noted that "many countries, including European countries such as Germany and Switzerland, have been providing Iran with equipment and materials which help it develop its nuclear capability."

He estimated that Iran is willing and will be able to use nuclear arms in the future in order to, among other things, threaten countries it considers enemies, such as the United States and Saudi Arabia.

"Iran considers Israel a secondary enemy," he noted, "and one can assume that it will not attack Israel directly but will continue to operate Hizballah against it."

He added: "Iran will attempt to pressure and threaten Saudi Arabia to raise the price of oil. As a result, many countries will have to pay a high economic price in the future if they fail to take action to stop Iran today."

Most Western countries do not have a full understanding of the Iranian threat, Gen. Dror said, and except for a few countries headed by the United States and Britain, they are not taking steps to curb it.

Brig. Gen. Dror also estimated that "if 'Arafat is assassinated any time soon, the Palestinians will find it hard to replace him."

Dror also estimated that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will not fight the PLO; rather, it will try to foil the peace process and destabilize the PLO establishment from within by infiltrating its government and social systems.

Proposal Submitted To Pardon Jailed IDF Troops

TA2810185393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Oct 93 p A3

[Report from Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] The proposal submitted to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Meretz Knesset Member Ran Kohen, calling for a pardon for all IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers currently imprisoned for offenses committed in the territories during the intifadah, has met with mixed reactions from senior IDF commanders.

Senior IDF officers, including major generals, told HA'ARETZ that soldiers who had carried out minor misdemeanors during the intifadah could be pardoned, especially when these infringements came against the background of their uncertainty with regard to the rules of engagement.

Other sources said that soldiers convicted of killing innocent residents through the use of torture or gunfire should not be pardoned.

Sources at the Military Advocate General said that soldiers could be pardoned for light offenses; however, the decision was up to the political echelon.

Data issued by the IDF spokesman shows that from the beginning of the intifadah and until October 1993, 183 charge sheets were submitted against 260 soldiers and officers. Charge sheets were submitted against officers in 58 of the cases, 202 charge sheets were issued against soldiers, and in four instances, charges were leveled against four civilian IDF employees. Of these cases, 225 charge sheets resulted in convictions. The suspects were found innocent in 25 cases, and charges against 10 officers and soldiers are still being pressed.

The charge sheets presented to the military court martials included 140 cases of violence against Palestinians, 70 charge sheets dealt with property crimes, and the rest involved minor transgressions such as offensive language, as well as disgraceful and inappropriate behavior.

The IDF spokesman refused to disclose how many soldiers were currently jailed in IDF prisons for offenses carried out during the intifadah; however, the assessment of a military source at the Military Advocate General put the figure at approximately 30 soldiers.

The HA'ARETZ correspondent noted that the more serious offenses occurred during the first two years of the intifadah and that in the past year there had been a decline in the number of charge sheets submitted against IDF soldiers.

Sources at the Military Advocate General added that in the past year, there had been a steep drop in incidents involving unjustified shooting at Palestinian residents. [passage omitted]

Army sources noted that if a decision is made to pardon these soldiers, there are currently no soldiers serving time for serious offenses. [passage omitted]

IDF Document Examines 'Hard Core' Jewish Extremists

TA2810183493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Oct 93 p A4

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Text] An official document prepared by the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] chief education officer includes an assessment that "the possibility of direct confrontation and physical clashes between IDF soldiers and various groups among the Jewish residents of the territories could not be ruled out during the negotiations, or even during the interim period until a permanent settlement is reached. This, either due to initiatives taken by the Jewish settlers or as a result of government decisions."

The paper, entitled "The Political Process—Explanatory Emphases," was written by Colonel Eytan Me'ir from the Education Corps Headquarters and distributed to education officers in all IDF units.

A forum of experts, including Professor Asa Kasher, Prof. Avi Ravitzky, and Dr. Hanan Kristal, and officers from the IDF's Education Corps, was established to help write the paper.

The document stipulates that "on the basis of staff work which is currently being completed, several basic assumptions and explanatory emphases were consolidated, in order to help guide senior IDF education officers on this issue."

It was decided that in light of the existence of "hard core" groups with a high level of ideological commitment and readiness for militant activity, one could safely estimate that democratic norms would again be put to the test.

The document cautions that "a situation where groups or individuals find themselves witnessing a direct conflict between the democratic majority and the ideals of Zionism, as they understand it, may be construed as granting them legitimacy to contravene social norms, violate the law, and even perpetrate physical violence."

"In our assessment," the paper states, "there is a real danger of blurring the distinction between the legitimacy of the debate surrounding government decisions, and the need to maintain the national consensus around the IDF's activities."

"Against this background," the document stipulates, "elements outside of the IDF may exhort and call on soldiers not to implement orders resulting from the agreement with the PLO, on the claim that these orders are manifestly illegal."

Following the document's disclosure, Likud Knesset Member Limor Livnat has called for the urgent convening of a joint committee made up of members of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and the Knesset's Education Committee, in order to discuss the chief education officer's informational program on the political process.

Livnat asserts that the document portrays the opponents of the agreement between Israel and the PLO as a bunch of rioters and potential law breakers.

Gur Interviewed on Peace, Nuclear Facilities

NC2610111693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Oct (MENA)—Deputy Israeli Defense Minister Mordechai Gur stated that the return of the 1967 Palestinians will be destructive for Israel, that they will threaten the country's security, and that the Arab countries should absorb them.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Tuesday [26 October], Gur added that the establishment of a Palestinian Army is out of the question now, in the future, and in any form whatsoever.

In reply to a question on the issues of crossing and exit points under Israeli control, which the Palestinian side is demanding, Gur said: All the borders, including the crossing and exit points and the bridges, will remain under the Israeli Government's control. He added that there will be no problems in crossing between Gaza and Jericho and that the details will be discussed during the negotiations [words indistinct].

On the role of the Palestinian police, Gur said: I hope that it will operate efficiently, perform all its duties, and control the situation according to the law without terrorism. This is the important thing.

In reply to another question on the Arab demand that Israel open its nuclear facilities to international observers, Gur said: I don't know what facilities they are talking about. But I advise Israel not to give up any of its military strength in favor of any of the neighboring countries because this will endanger it.

Hungary's Fur Comments on Talks with Rabin

LD2910100093 Budapest MTI in English 0916 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Tel Aviv, October 29 (MTI)—"Inasmuch as Palestinian autonomy is realized, that could serve as an example for the central and eastern European region, too", Hungarian Minister of Defence Lajos Fur said, in the course of his talks with Israeli Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Yitzhak Rabin in Jerusalem.

The Hungarian minister mentioned autonomy as one of the possible solutions of the minority issue.

Fur and Rabin also discussed possible Israeli participation in the development of the Hungarian armed forces.

Speaking with MTI's correspondent, Fur said modernization of the outdated Hungarian military technology could be implemented to prolong the modern operation ability of these means for another ten to 15 years.

"This could apply for many things, including the MiG fighter jets", he added.

The Hungarian military delegation arrived in Israel on Wednesday [27 October] evening. On Thursday morning, Fur and Prime Minister Rabin set down the general basic principles of defence relations between the two countries in a document.

The delegation is to visit Jerusalem over the weekend. Its programme includes wreath-laying ceremonies in the Yad Vashem Museum, and in the memorial park of the holocaust victims.

Fur and the military delegation are to leave Israel on Sunday.

Study: More Jews Than Arabs in East Jerusalem

TA2810171393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Oct 93 p A1

[Report by Nadav Shragay in Jerusalem]

[Text] A document issued by the department for strategic thinking at Jerusalem Municipality transmitted to the Foreign Ministry for dissemination among Israeli Embassies shows that there are 167,511 Jews currently living in East Jerusalem compared to only 154,182 Arabs. The data is true for July 1993 and shows that the Jewish majority in East Jerusalem—which was first reported three months ago by the municipal official responsible for planning and building—is about 11,000 higher than earlier estimated. The rate of populating the new North Jerusalem neighborhoods will increase that majority even further. These are lands annexed to Jerusalem from the south, east, and north of the old border in 1967.

The document shows that Jerusalem's population is currently 582,500. Of these, 321,700 are living in East Jerusalem and some 261,000 in the west. The report shows also that the Jewish demographic advantage in East Jerusalem is due to the inhabitation of new homes and natural growth, which is 21.5 per 1,000, while natural growth in the Arab sector is 28 per 1,000, but in absolute figures the population growth in the Arab sector due to natural growth is smaller—2,100 in the first six months of 1993 compared to 2,820 among the Jews—due to the fact that some three quarters of Jerusalem's population is Jewish.

The Jewish population of Jerusalem grew by some 2,300 between January and July because more people came to live in the city, while the Arab population did not grow at all under that clause. The estimation that the Jewish majority in East Jerusalem will grow relatively fast is also shown by other data in the annual report on Jerusalem's housing potential. It shows that some 31,143 housing units can be built in the Jewish neighborhoods compared to a potential growth of 15,210 units in the non-Jewish neighborhoods. In general, there is a potential for 46,300 new apartments—defined as plans approved for implementation, not currently being implemented, in the process of being approved, or a plan for the future of all Jerusalem. East Jerusalem can potentially grow by 17,700 new housing units for Jews and 15,210 units for Arabs.

IAF Sues Government Over Ban on Rallies

PM2910103493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Oct 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Jordanian Islamic Front Decides To Sue Government"]

[Excerpt] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Islamic Action Front party in Jordan has decided to sue the Jordanian Government before the Jordanian High Court of Justice because of the government's refusal to agree to the Front's request to hold election campaign rallies for its candidates in the parliamentary elections scheduled to be held on 8 November. But the party will not go so far as to boycott the elections.

Hamzah Mansur, a candidate and also the party's assistant secretary general, has said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that it is the executive bureau which has decided to sue the government. It has asked the legal committee in the party to prepare and organize papers for the lawsuit and submit them directly to the High Court of Justice.

He added that the executive bureau has left to the party's secretary general, Dr. Ishaq Farhan, the decision to request a meeting with the Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, to discuss the issue of banning speech rallies and the problem relating to the moving of a number of employees who are members and supporters of the Front from their workplaces to other places at this particular time for electoral reasons.

He pointed out: Dr. al-Farhan has officially asked the Jordanian Royal Court to submit the request for a party delegation to meet with the king. We are waiting to be notified of the date of the meeting, in order to present to the king all matters which we believe are violations, especially as the law gives us the right to hold election campaign rallies, and we hope the king will intervene to solve these problems. The party's secretary general said in a recent press conference that the party would turn to the Jordanian monarch after its talks with the government on these questions reached an impasse.

Hamzah Mansur told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the party has sent a memorandum to Interior Minister Salamah Hammad, expressing its objection to what it described as the encirclement of the party's building before the press conference. [passage omitted]

IAF Wins Court Case

JN2910105193 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Oct 93 pp 1, 13

[Text] Amman, PETRA/SAWT AL-SHA'B—Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front [IAF] Party, has stated that the High Court of Justice has unanimously ruled to annul the interior minister's decision to ban election rallies.

Dr. al-Farhan said: After exhausting all means to protest the ban on the speech rallies for the 8 November parliamentary elections, the IAF decided to ask its counselor Zuhayr Abu-al-Raghib to file a lawsuit with the High Court of Justice. The esteemed court, attended by all of its members, looked into the case in accordance with the laws in force and issued its verdict to annul the interior minister's decision banning the election rallies. The High Court of Justice, which has 12 members, was presided over by its president, Judge Rif'at Shammut.

Dr. al-Farhan added: In light of this verdict, the IAF Party underlines its pride in our fair and just judiciary. The verdict also confirms that the Jordanian judiciary is a fortress of freedom in our dear Jordan.

Answering a question from the Jordanian News Agency on the High Court of Justice's verdict to annul the interior minister's decision to ban candidates from holding election rallies in public areas, Interior Minister Salamah Hammad said: Despite the fact that the Ministry has not yet received the court's official verdict, the Government respects the decision of the Jordanian judiciary and, as a state that upholds law and justice, is committed to apply it. By doing so, he said, the Government confirms its pride in the Jordanian judiciary and its independence and noninterference in its affairs.

Hammad added: In that regard, I wish to explain that the Ministry had not decided to ban all kinds of election rallies. He said that in the light of the Court's verdict, each application [to hold a rally] will be considered on its own merits by the governors and district officials to decide on and make the necessary arrangements to hold these rallies, taking into consideration the citizens' safety and public order.

Hammad added: On this occasion, we wish to reaffirm the Government's pledge to hold the next elections in a an atmosphere of complete impartiality.

Interior Minister Discusses Election Process

JN2810180593 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Amman, 28 Oct (PETRA)—Interior Minister Salamah Hammad has said that 951,463 voting cards had been distributed as of yesterday. This shows that citizens are contributing to the democratic process. The ministry is about to complete the distribution of these cards, he added, noting that 1,514,000 citizens registered their names in the voter registers. [passage omitted]

Last night in a televised seminar, the minister said that after the cards have been distributed, the ministry will form voting committees, provide all administrative procedures for these committees, and work out a plan to maintain security on voting day and during the work of the sorting committees at the end of the voting. The measures will be easy, free, honest, and smooth for citizens. We hope the results will appear on the evening of the voting day, he added.

Regarding rallies and speeches in mosques by the candidates, the minister said: The law governs us in this regard. We take pride in our respect for law. We have a national charter, a political parties law, and an election law. We comply with these laws. We do not circumvent them. We also do not allow any brother citizen to circumvent them regardless of his political tendency and party. [passage omitted]

Regarding the transfer of some state employees who were supervising the election process, the minister said: First, I would like to explain the legal dimension, and other measures that have a political dimension. In the first place, our measures aim to serve citizens. We want to see honesty and neutrality. We do not want to see any state employee used against any candidate, regardless of his tendency. All are our brothers. We are not against anyone. However, we should safeguard the law and achieve justice through the law, which we should respect. Some brothers have their own argument, which, we believe, departs from the truth. Our argument is that the political parties law organizes political and party work in the Kingdom. Thus, 20 parties have been registered and licensed.

The minister added: State employees were allowed to join parties as they thought proper. We do not have any objection or reservation about this. However, we have a special law, which is legally restricted by the general law. It is the election law according to which elections are held. Article 64 of this law clearly defines matters and bans state employees from working in favor of any candidate in the elections. The text of this article says: Employees of the government, the official institutions, and local organs are not permitted to work in election propaganda for any candidate. There is a penalty, which can be as much as imprisonment and payment of fines. However, we did not want to punish these employees. We only asked for a measure to prevent this encroachment. Various departments favored transferring these employees rather than punishing them. These employees admitted that they engaged in election propaganda for candidates outside their official duty hours. But does a state employee cease to be an official employee outside his office hours? Naturally, he remains a state employee. We do not allow such encroachments. The measure taken was not a punishment but rather a transfer until the elections are over, after which these employees will be considered from the humanitarian viewpoint and according to their places of work. It would have been something different if we sought to punish these employees. In fact, the evidence, the admissions, and the complaints filed with us are all there. [passage omitted]

Editorial Asserts Support for Peace Policy

JN2810201393 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 28-29 Oct 93 p 17

[Editorial: "A Model of a Homeland Which Has Faith in its Nation"]

[Text] It does no harm if we once again dot the i's to clarify matters. Jordan has never said it is against a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Policies were put to the test when these stands became mixed up, and Jordan did not change its color as an Arab country that has faith in its nation. Jordan neither abandoned Jerusalem, nor did it stop caring for the suffering of a woman, or the hunger of a child, throughout the homeland from the ocean to the gulf, or across its land and riparian borders.

Jordan—which participated in the peace process with its brothers not out of weakness or fear—has always been eager to cooperate with them, upholding their rights before its own, and abiding by its Arab affiliation. Jordan has always fulfilled the promises it made to its nation during the many decades of calamities. Jordan has assumed more than its share of burdens and has kept warning and alerting the Arabs. With the resolve of men, Jordan has never shirked its responsbilities or evaded the consequences of what had taken place. A country's mettle is always tested during hardships.

Without seeking gains or fearing consequences, but concerned about the safety of the nation and the homeland in an era when we know what we can do and what we cannot do, and what we have and what we do not have, Jordan has clarified and reiterated that the peaceful solution that should take place in the Middle East is a solution based on peace and not capitulation, a solution that is not imposed and that will be accepted by future generations, a solution that will safeguard the Arab and Islamic character of the holy places in Jerusalem, a trust His Majesty King Husayn said is a Hashemite trust that cannot be relinquished and on which no bargaining can take place.

Jordan—which never said it is against peace or the efforts to attain it, and has not given up a brother's right to further its own right—is the Jordan of the Hashemite leadership and of the Jordanian people with all their factions, irrespective of their origin or descent. It has proved to be a country that belongs to its nation, that puts other countries before itself, that heals the wounds of this homeland in times of crises, that does not look down on others, and does not evade the duties it has accepted.

With the spirit of the one family, and having been a model in the past and the example to be emulated in the future, Jordan's march will continue, God willing, secure, prosperous, and stable, lofty as it has been and as it will continue to be, unshaken by any slander, to which it has become accustomed, and never changing its principles, whether they are misunderstood or misconstrued. The lofty will remain lofty.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Hariri on Economic, Security Issues

PM2810165693 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Oct 93 pp23-25

[Interview with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid in Paris; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Rashid] A year has passed since you became prime minister. Some people are saying that the situation in Lebanon is politically unstable and economically bad. How do you explain the developments of that period?

[Al-Hariri] Ther can be no doubt that Lebanon has not fully recovered but it would be wrong to say that the situation in the country now is the same as it was last year. There was almost no confidence then but there is firm confidence now. The Lebanese currency, which caused the Lebanese people some concern for years, is now stable and has been slowly improving since I took over, and it remained stable despite the recent Israeli strike. In the past, any political crisis, or even a statement, undermined the currency.

[Al-Rashid] But what has improved politically?

[Al-Hariri] Le me tell you this. We have a government that is one year old. There is clear harmony among its members. Decisions are made and carried out. These things exist in other countries. They did not exist in Lebanon, and therefore this achievement is seen as something extraordinary. Lebanon has been through exceptional circumstances. The governments of the world are harmonious. The Lebanese governments were not so but the present governement is. Minor incidents occur here and there but, unlike past situations, they do not affect progress.

The other point is that the services have improved. When I first took over nobody could use the telephone. After a while we managed to ensure international calls at all levels with all states. Do not forget that the internal telephone network is worn out. It has gone 20 years without maintenance and cannot be repaired in just one year. To build a house, you need time to prepare the blueprints and find the required materials. Building a country is not easy.

We made great achievements in one year. We bought 1 million telephone lines and signed contracts to provide a full electricity supply. We have also signed contracts for water and made preparations for rebuilding and expanding the airport, and we invited bids for that. We are also building the sports center. We have also begun returning the evacuees to their homes. A good number of people have returned.

We have also initiated a project for the improvement of services in the suburb [southern suburb of Beirut]. That is important to the Lebanese. That area has been called the belt of misery and always caused political explosions. That is why we are trying to rectify the situation and improve the services in the area. We have also begun work on the approaches to Beirut and the roads leading to Beirut. We have done many things in one year in addition to restoring the confidence in the state. The state of the Army and internal security have also been improved. We have, in one year, foiled numerous attempts to create explosive situations and scores of attempts to manufacture and smuggle drugs.

We have also helped the Lebanese University and secured some loans for it. We have managed to get aid and loans on easy terms to the value of $1.5 billion. We have laid the foundations and completed the necessary measures for the reconstruction of central Beirut.

[Al-Rashid] You have presented a good picture.

[Al-Hariri] No, I am telling you what we have achieved but it is impossible for the country, after 15 years of war, to again become what it once was. That is impossible in one year, not even on the material level and not even if all the resources were available. We said in the beginning that the country needed 10 billion [currency not stated]. Spending the 10 billion would take time but first one would have to find the money. We are trying to find these material capabilities and we have been successful to a certain extent in our program.

[Al-Rashid] And how do you coexist with the political tug-of-war?

[Al-Hariri] That is part of democratic life.

[Al-Rashid] It has been claimed that the situation was once so bad that you nearly resigned or threatened to resign at the end of summer, and would have, had it not been for the arrival of Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

[Al-Hariri] Resignation is not something to joke about. I neither resigned nor threatened to resign. I just resented certain abnormal attitudes.

[Al-Rashid] But that resentment reached a critical point.

[Al-Hariri] There was some resentment and it ended.

[Al-Rashid] Is it true that 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam played a role in solving the problem?

[Al-Hariri] You know that the Syrian brothers have close links with Lebanon. That is because of the special relations between the two countries on the one hand and the presence of the (Syrian) Army on the other. Hence their interest in Lebanon. That is why they concerned themselves and Abu-Jamal (Khaddam) came, by virtue of that friendship and on the instructions of the president (al-Asad).

[Al-Rashid] Does it not embarrass you that a Syrian official was the one who solved the Lebanese prime minister's problem?

[Al-Hariri] You can look at it from that angle if you like but if you take a broader view you will realize that all the Arab states intervened to find a solution to the Lebanese question. Three states intervened to produce the al-Ta'if agreement which is now the basis of the state. The Lebanese have grown accustomed to interventions aimed at finding solutions or easing a difficult situation. There can be no doubt that it would be better for one not to bother others with his problems but it would be better still not to have problems.

I can say that in my time, since I became prime minister, there have been fewer problems. That was not the case in the past.

[Al-Rashid] The differences within the government have not ended.

[Al-Hariri] Yes, they have ended.

[Al-Rashid] But you have been quoted as saying that Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz does not represent the government. Is that no so?

[Al-Hariri] No, I did not say that. I was misquoted. What happened was that a deputy asked me about a certain statement by the foreign minister which I had not heard personally and there did not seem to have been a statement. I said that if that statement was true then it was a personal opinion or theory. It was natural for the prime minister to explain that.

[Al-Rashid] But is there some disagreement with the foreign minister over the government's policy?

[Al-Hariri] Not at all. If there was disagreement over policy there would be a problem. Rest assured that there is no disagreement with the president of the republic or any minister over policy. There is no disagreement over the foreign, defense, or economic policies of the country.

[Al-Rashid] What about the alleged disagreement with the information minister?

[Al-Hariri] The minister returned to work after his recovery. There is no disagreement but the media here interpret every discussion as disagreement. That is the nature of the Lebanese open system. From the first month in office rumors began to appear claiming, for instance, that there was going to be a cabinet reshuffle or a change of ministers. The Lebanese are used to such stories.

[Al-Rashid] If you were compelled to form a new cabinet, would you be able to accommodate most of the ministers?

[Al-Hariri] That is a hypothetical question. You could ask me if I regret forming this cabinet. My answer would be no. Every political situation has its circumstances and causes.

[Al-Rashid] Is it true that the Syrians were unhappy about the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the south?

[Al-Hariri] None of them said anything to me.

[Al-Rashid] In your meeting with the American officials, was the question of resettling the Palestinians in Lebanon raised?

[Al-Hariri] They did not raise the matter with us but we preempted the issue and explained our position on it, namely that that should not be part of their calculations for a solution.

[Al-Rashid] Even if there was an external agreement to resettle them [in Lebanon]?

[Al-Hariri] We will not resettle them.

[Al-Rashid] Even if Israel refused to take them back?

[Al-Hariri] We will never resettle them because that would mean giving them citizenship and I would never do that.

[Al-Rashid] What is the solution?

[Al-Hariri] We will see what could be done but there will certainly be no granting of citizenship.

[Al-Rashid] Are there any signs of agreement between you and the Israelis?

[Al-Hariri] There are only talks in Washington. The outcome depends on Israel. In other words Resolution 425 should be implemented and Israel should withdraw from all the Lebanese territory and we would be responsible for security there.

[Al-Rashid] But that was also a condition set by the Palestinians but then they accepted gradual partial solutions.

[Al-Hariri] Our issue is smaller than the Palestinian question.

[Al-Rashid] Does that mean that we can expect an agreement similar to the "Gaza-Jericho first" agreement?

[Al-Hariri] The rules which apply to Gaza and Jericho do not apply to us. In the Palestinian territories there is no Palestinian state. We have a state with its own Army and capabilities.

[Al-Rashid] But there is some doubt about Lebanon's ability to maintain security in the south.

[Al-Hariri] Israel has said no such thing. What is your source?

[Al-Rashid] Last time when Katyushas were fired on Israel, Israeli forces stormed in. Does that not indicate a lack of confidence in the state's ability to maintain security there?

[Al-Hariri] Why should we be asked to disarm citizens who resist the occupation?

[Al-Rashid] Why does the Army not resist? Are there Iranian pressures in this connection?

[Al-Hariri] Iran helps Hizballah but the real reasons is that Israel is occupying Lebanese territory. Let me ask you, if a part of Kuwait had remained occupied, even by an Arab side, would you be able to prevent Kuwaiti resistance for the liberation of that part of Kuwaiti territory?

[Al-Rashid] Some would reply by asking, why were other Lebanese parties and militias disarmed but not Hizballah?

[Al-Hariri] We have disarmed all the parties, including Hizballah, in Beirut, but the occupied territories are open to the resistance and there are people other than Hizballah resisting the Israeli occupation.

[Al-Rashid] After past bloody confrontations, should we expect your government to face future demonstrations with force?

[Al-Hariri] In principle, demonstrations should not be met with force. We are not against people expressing their views but the circumstances we are experiencing are critical and security is above all other considerations. We fear for the demonstrators, we do not fear them. What is there to fear from 1,000 or 2,000 demonstrators? We fear for them, lest infiltrators fabricate something against them and their safety. We now care about the country's stability. I assure you that we did not ban them because of a political stand toward the government. On the contrary, our position is close to theirs.

[Al-Rashid] What if a demonstration was staged?

[Al-Hariri] There will be no demonstrations.

[Al-Rashid] I know about your economic success. You have a renowned record, but your role in Lebanon today is political. There are those who fear that your economic success might be abused. There has been some talk about the purchase of land, company contracts, and other things. Does that not upset you?

[Al-Hariri] You are actually asking old questions.

[Al-Rashid] Consider me an ignorant journalist. What is your reply?

[Al-Hariri] These are not serious credible accusations. In Lebanon I am not known as a businessman. I have benevolent societies in such fields as education and medical care. Al-Hariri foundations have cost a great deal of money.

[Al-Rashid] What about your investment in the field of information?

[Al-Hariri] Information is linked to public affairs and its investment aspect is small. You know that. What profits does your establishment make?

[Al-Rashid] But some would condemn that and say why not keep away from information investment until after you leave politics?

[Al-Hariri] Exactly. Is it reasonable for one to go back to politics after leaving it? My information investment is a natural thing. A politician has ideas which he needs to explain and defend.

[Al-Rashid] What part of the Lebanon aid program has been fulfilled and what did your recent political tour achieve?

[Al-Hariri] Our Arab brothers have made some promises to us. Most have been promises but some did provide aid.

[Al-Rashid] Will you continue to work in politics?

[Al-Hariri] Work for the homeland cannot be measured by hours but rather by the final result. What were conditions in Lebanon like? Are they still the same or have they improved? If there is improvement for the Lebanese people, and they have high hopes, then one would continue but it would be a different matter if he found himself standing still.

Gunmen Seize Supporters of Michel 'Awn

NC2810185893 Paris AFP in English 1243 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Beirut, Oct 28 (AFP)—Gunmen have rounded up an unspecified number of supporters of renegade Christian leader Michel 'Awn, the general's former spokesman said on Thursday.

Faruq Abu-al-Lama' told AFP that in one incident, four armed men on Monday seized 'Ubad Zuwayn, an insurance agent and father of three.

"The men knocked at his door at 1.00 a.m. on Tuesday, identified themselves as 'security' agents and ordered Zuwayn to follow them," Abu-al-Lama' said.

Zuwayn asked to see an arrest warrant to no avail and was led out in his pajamas and slippers as his three children watched helplessly.

Zuwayn was a 'Awn supporter and had no police record, he added.

Abu-al-Lama' said he spoke with the general prosecutor and that contacts were underway with several cabinet ministers and other political figures to determine the whereabouts of Zuwayn.

A police spokesman said he was not aware of any arrests and no one was immediately available for comment at Lebanese Army headquarters.

Newspaper here citing security sources reported that Zuwayn and other 'Awn supporters had been arrested after distributing leaflets against the army, Lebanese and Syrian officials.

The renegade general who is opposed to President Ilyas al-Hirawi headed a military government until his defeat in an offensive led by Syrian and Lebanese army units in October 1990.

He took refuge at the French Embassy for around 10 months and later the authorities allowed him to leave for France, where he was granted political asylum.

Israeli Post Attacked; Southern Towns Shelled

NC2810180293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Two Israeli helicopters strafed the outskirts of Dallafah and al-Surayri and the Litani River basin near the town of (Barghaz) for 60 minutes today. Israeli warplanes also made extensive flights over Marj 'Uyun, Hasbayya, and Western al-Biqa'.

At dawn today, the occupation forces raked the Litani River basin from Dallafah bridge to al-Khardali bridge in the south and the nearby al-Rayhan woods with heavy machine guns. This was accompanied by intense artillery shelling of the outskirts of the Western al-Biqa', Maydun, Jabal Abu Rashid, and al-Surayri.

In another development, a resistance group shelled an occupation forces post on the hill of Kawkaba. According to security sources, the post was hit by five mortar shells, but there were no reports of casualties.

First 'Public Threat' Issued to Israel Over Security

PM2810145293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Salwa al-Ustuwani and Muhammad Sadiq report: "Damascus: Either Security for All or No Security at All"]

[Excerpt] Damascus, Washington, occupied Jerusalem, news agencies—With significant timing—coinciding with maneuvers with live ammunition being conducted by the Syrian Navy—Damascus has issued the first "public threat" to Israel over what has been described as its banking on the Gaza-Jericho agreement. It is most likely that the Syrian "threat" is a response to a message which Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin sent to President Hafiz al-Asad a few days ago, in which he said that the negotiations over the Golan are deferred until implementation of the articles of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has been completed.

A Syrian official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Damascus that Israel's rulers must know that "security has to be for all or not at all... and the same applies to peace. Tel Aviv's rulers would be mistaken if they imagine that they have become—after the Gaza-Jericho agreement—capable of holding the reins of power in the region and imposing what they want on it."

The Syrian official went on to say: "Israel must clearly understand that peace will not be achieved for it at all while it is clinging to land. Nor will it enjoy security and stability as long as there is an occupation, aggression, and an intention to expand."

Damascus circles note that this is the first time Syria has threatened Israel publicly with not letting it enjoy security and stability under its present logic in the Gaza-Jericho agreement, especially as Syria has the capabilities to achieve this, including the presence of the key [Palestinian] figures opposed to the agreement, who are influential forces in the occupied territories.

The Syrian official said in his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Israel is seeking to close the door to peace and to torpedo all the formulas agreed by the Arabs and the world as a means for peace. [passage omitted]

Troops Carry Out Live-Fire Tactical Exercise

JN2810195893 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Pursuant to the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, some of our combat formations have carried out a tactical exercise with live ammunition. Various corps of forces participated in this exercise in which full cooperation and accurate coordination among the various corps were demonstrated, thus achieving the training objectives of this exercise.

The final phase of this exercise was attended by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff; a number of senior command and formations commanders; staff Brigadier General Muhammad Tariq al-Khadra', chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army; and several senior officers of the fraternal Lebanese and Kuwaiti armies.

After the audience heard a detailed briefing given by the exercise commander concerning its various phases, the forces began to carry out the missions assigned to them. The forces participating in the exercises managed to achieve all the training objectives and carried out the assumed tasks in an atmosphere similar to a real battle. They also managed to accurately hit and destroy the specified targets.

At the end of the exercise, Gen. Mustafa Talas lauded the commanders and fighters of the units that carried out the exercise. He gave his directives and observations on the exercise. He stressed the need to maintain combat preparedness and to continue training, so our Armed Forces under the historic leadership of President struggler Hafiz al-Asad will remain the Arab nation's army that defends its rights, safeguards its land and sanctities, and works for its objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism. [video shows portions of exercise, weapon systems including tanks and aircraft, and reviewing officials]

Press Stresses Need for Israeli 'Commitment'

JN2810114793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on the Middle East peace process, saying: UN archives testify to the fact that the Syrian political discourse has remained consistent since the inception of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is the reflection of an unfluctuating policy. Whoever sincerely calls for the establishment of just and comprehensive peace will have no quarrel with Syria. Whoever pursues any effort toward that end will find Syria working with him to achieve this objective. As for those who are neither working for just and comprehensive peace, nor interested in regional security and stability, they will find themselves at loggerheads with Syria. These are the people who are obstructing the peace process and attempting to play games, deceive, impose dictates on others, perpetuate the occupation of others' territory, and deny them their rights.

AL-BA'TH adds: It was Syria which opened the doors for peace in the region in the first place. This is because Syria is after just and comprehensive peace. The doors opened for peace by Syria are clear and direct. They were opened in broad daylight. For, it is impossible for Syria to engage in the peace process via back doors, or to enter dark lobbies, closed chambers, and cellars of conspiracy against peace, UN conventions, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the destinies of the peoples of this part of the world.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: This stand indicates neither rigidity nor extremism on Syria's part. By pursuing this course, Syria is acting in complete harmony with the peace process and the terms of reference agreed on for it. As a matter of fact, Syria has extended every possible assistance and cooperation it could have extended to advance the peace process and render it a success. Nonetheless, Syria cannot be led into a vicious circle of futile talks that only mark time, without any likelihood of a positive outcome, indefinitely. Those who have deluded themselves into believing that they can play games with Syria in the peace process, ensure the implementation of moves or plans undesired by Syria, or extricate from it concessions which it cannot make, neither now, nor in the future, must learn from the history pertaining to the struggle of nations and peoples that the peace based on injustice is inviable. Besides, such a peace cannot enjoy the support of the peoples concerned. Indeed, such a peace intrinsically carries the seeds of its own destruction. The components of its own extinction are inherent in it. In contrast, only just and comprehensive peace can enjoy the peoples' support, and return their territories and rights to them. At the same time, such a peace would prompt the peoples of the region to work and cooperate in their own interest, the interest of others, and the interest of the whole of mankind.

AL-THAWRAH newspaper comments on the statements of Israeli officials, which have repeatedly and increasingly reflected Israel's clear rejection of just and comprehensive peace as well as its determination to continue with the policy of maneuvering and deception, not to mention its indulgence in all that could obstruct progress in the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH elaborates: These statements categorically show the Tel Aviv rulers' determination to ensure the implementation of partial and flawed solutions that are based on extricating further concessions from the Arabs in the hope of making them accept distorted settlements that would allow Israel to retain the occupied Arab territories and swallow up the legitimate Arab rights, which are recognized by international law and enshrined in the resolutions of international legitimacy. These resolutions are, actually, the terms of reference agreed on for the peace process. They were deemed the basic pivot of the U.S. initiative.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel's provocations, which are aimed at thwarting U.S. efforts and killing the current peace opportunity, have not been confined to these intransigent statements. They have taken more rigorous and malignant forms. For, Israel is planning to absorb an additional 100,000 immigrants expected to arrive in Israel next year.

The paper goes on to say: Given this Israeli policy, which indicates a flagrant disregard for the will to achieve peace, and determination to evade any commitment to the requirements of just and comprehensive peace, the following questions arise: What kind of peace does Israel want? Over what is Israel negotiating if it is opposed to withdrawal to the pre-June 1967 borders, if it wants to consecrate its occupation of Jerusalem, and if it speaks of only a partial withdrawal from the Golan?

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Undoubtedly, Israel is dreaming and deluded if it believes that by pursuing such a policy, it will be able to achieve the settlement it wants; that is, a solution that would prompt the Arabs to relinquish their territories and renounce their rights. Israel must realize that peace has its own components and requirements, which are the implementation of the relevant UN resolutions and withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. Unless Israel declares a commitment to these conditions, any talk of peace will remain irrelevant, meaningless, and nonsensical.

'Evasive' Israeli Policy Assailed

JN2910073293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Oct 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The commentaries and political analyses of today's papers discuss the extortionist and evasive policy that Israel is pursuing to obstruct the just and comprehensive peace in the region and evade the price of peace. These commentaries and analyses also focus on Syria's clear and positive stand, which supports the peace process that started in Madrid on the basis of justice and international legitimacy.

Under the headline "Israeli Intentions and Hostility Toward Peace," AL-BA'TH says: The daily statements of Israeli officials are clear signs of their intentions, which oppose the tendency toward peace and the international desire to bring a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace to the region.

The paper says these statement illustrate the strategy that Zionism is still seeking to achieve at the expense of the Arabs and their historical rights and wealth. AL-BA'TH says: We in Syria are not surprised by the Israelis' intransigent statements. Therefore, when Syria speaks about peace, it takes into account the fact that peace is indivisible, contrary to Israel's wishes, and that peace is the alternative to war and destruction, despite what Israel thinks.

AL-BA'TH notes that while the talks are going on and efforts are being intensified to secure a start toward just and comprehensive peace, we note that Israel is doubling its arms buildup and intensifying preparations for aggression.

Concluding its editorial, the paper stresses that Syria is concerned about the just and comprehensive peace because the Arabs can, through such a peace, regain all of their rights. Syria, the paper maintains, is very careful not to take hasty stands and drift behind events in order to prevent the collapse of Arab resources in the face of the Zionist enemy, who covets the Arabs' land and resources.

[Text] Under the headline "Policy of Maneuvers," AL-THAWRAH says in a commentary: The Israeli rulers will be making a big mistake if they think that they can deprive the just and comprehensive peace of its substance and evade paying its price, particularly those related to the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, through their policy of maneuvers and procrastination, which uses the Gaza-Jericho agreement as a prop.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the world community, which has made peace in the Middle a constant demand and an important objective, believes that this objective can only be achieved on the basis of the just and comprehensive solution stipulated in the Madrid formula on the one hand, and on the basis of serious positions displayed by all parties involved in the peace process on the other.

The paper adds: Because Israel is the only party that maneuvers, procrastinates, and fabricates obstacles here and there in order to prevent the peace process from progressing toward its objective, and because Israel is the party that is evading the dues of peace and is seeking to undermine every effort aimed at activating that process, the world will soon direct an accusing finger at Israel for obstructing peace and its process. The world will also discover that Israel is hostile to peace and will not hesitate to undermine the peace efforts and torpedo the opportunities provided by the Arabs in their positive and effective stand on the peace process.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: In the face of this Israeli course, which opposes peace and defies the will of the world community, the U.S. sponsor of the peace process, now renewing efforts to activate this process, should make clear moves to remove the Israel obstacle. This will take serious action by the U.S. Administration to convince Israel that its policy of maneuvers will not lead to a genuine peace and that the achievement of that peace requires a different Israeli policy that is based on acknowledging the fact that the Madrid formula cannot be changed and that peace has a price; namely, the complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, without any preconditions.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH stresses that the Gaza-Jericho agreement was reached separately, away from the peace process, outside the framework of the peace talks and the peace process terms of reference. The paper stresses that the Israeli rulers insist on promoting this agreement as the desired and promised peace.

The paper notes that there is nothing new in the Israeli position and course. The paper adds: There is not even the smallest positive initiative to reflect Israel's good intentions toward the region and the future of peace in it. Instead, Israel intensified its aggressive acts in the occupied territories and south Lebanon.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: What the Israeli rulers should clearly understand is that Syria, with its sincere quest for peace, will not yield to Israel's extortion and procrastination policy. Syria seeks a just and comprehensive peace because it constitutes the real key to that peace. Such a peace cannot be established or be sound without the return of the Golan Heights and south Lebanon and the application of all resolutions of international legitimacy.

Afghanistan

Rival Kabul Factions Agree on Cease-Fire

LD2810183293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] A resolution issued today announces a cease-fire between Ettehad-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Union] and Hezb-e Wahdat- e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Unity Party]. BAKHTAR reports that according to the resolution, the cease-fire between Ettehad-e Eslami-e Afghanistan and Wahdat-e Eslami-e Afghanistan is effective from 1200 today.

In order to supervise implementation [of the cease-fire], an authorized delegation comprising representatives from Jamiat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Society], Harakat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Movement], Ettehad-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan, and Wahdat-e Eslami-e Afghanistan will set up both stationary and mobile posts.

It is further stated in the resolution that in the event of violation [of the cease-fire], each party must first [words indistinct].

The cease-fire agreement was reached as a result of the efforts and mediation of esteemed Ayatollah Shaykh Asef Mohseni, leader of Harakat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan and authorized representatives of the other formations.

Here is the text of the resolution:

At a meeting between authorized representatives of the Ettehad-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan and Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan on 5 Aqrab 1372 [corresponding to 27 Octotber 1993), which was chaired by Hazrat-e Ayatollah Mohseni and which was called to discuss the cessation of war, the maintenance of peace and fraternity, and the establishment of lasting security, the following agreement was reached:

1. A cease-fire will be enforced starting at 1200 on 6 Aqrab [corresponding to 28 October] and the relevant parties consider themselves duty bound to implement and consolidate the announced cease-fire.

2. An observer delegation to watch over the [rival parties'] trenches and implementation of the cease-fire was agreed.

3. The observers will be stationed at sensitive positions including [word indistinct] mountain known as Childokhtaran, (Niyazbeg), Abrasani, Diwanbegi, [Kabul city] district 5, the highest point on Silo mountain, Kota Sangi, and other places where the observers deem it necessary.

4. The observer delegation comprises members from Wahdat-e Eslami Party, Ettehad-e Eslami, Harakat-e Eslami, and Jamiat-e Eslami who will be stationed in the appointed positions.

5. Two members from each formation, a total of eight persons, are to be stationed in the appointed areas in order to supervise the cease-fire.

6. A mobile group comprising [members] of the Jamiat-e Eslami and Ettehad-e Eslami formations—in areas under their control—and a mobile group comprising [members] of Ettehad-e Eslami and Wahadat-e Eslami parties—in areas under their control—are strictly duty bound to observe the cease-fire.

7. The representatives in the peace commission will take serious and strong measures through the relevant party toward preventing and warning every violater who causes a breach of the cease-fire. In the event it proves impossible for the violator's relevant party to take such measures, the four parties will jointly (?arrest) the person after obtaining [word indistinct] permission from the relevant party.

8. Communication links will be established between the observer delegation and the mobile groups.

9. The mobile groups and the observers of the cease-fire are duty bound and are responsible for preparing daily reports and conveying them to the commission.

10. Hazrat-e Ayatollah Mohseni will chair the commission until the consolidation of peace is achieved.

India Reopens Embassy in Kabul 25 Oct

LD2810190093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan informed BIA [Bakhtar Information Agency] that the Embassy of the Republic of India in Kabul, which had stopped its diplomatic activities for some time, resumed activities on 25 October.

Bangladesh

Iranian Construction Jihad Minister Pays Visit

Commerce Minister Welcomes Tehran Trade

LD2710150793 Tehran IRNA in English 1428 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Dhaka, Oct. 27, IRNA—Bangladeshi Commerce Minister, M. Shamsul Islam [title as received] here Wednesday said that his country welcomes further promotion of Tehran-Dhaka commercial cooperation.

Shamsul Islam told the visiting Iranian Construction Jihad Minister Gholam Reza Foruzesh, that Iran can export its goods to a third country via Bangladesh.

He also called on Iran to remove credit limitations in order to boost Iran's tea and jute imports from Bangladesh.

Shamsul Islam referred to the first session of Tehran-Dhaka joint economic commission, opened here Tuesday, and said it will help further boost bilateral economic cooperation.

Foruzesh, who is also head of the Tehran-Dhaka joint economic commission, expressed Iran's readiness to increase volume of bilateral trade and said that Iran can export industrial and consumer goods to Bangladesh.

He added that the increasing volume of bilateral trade in the recent years proves the potential of the two countries to further boost commercial ties.

Iran To Partake in Development Projects

LD2710230393 Tehran IRNA in English 2102 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Dhaka, Oct. 28, IRNA—Bangladesh minister of state for local government, rural development and cooperatives Abdus-Salaam Talukdar [name as received] told visiting Construction Jihad Minister of Iran Gholam Reza Foruzesh here Wednesday that the Islamic Republic could play a role in construction and development projects in Bangladesh.

The Iranian minister appreciated the invitation saying Iran highly values relations with Bangladesh, as the second most populated Muslim country of the world.

Foruzesh, who is here for the Tehran-Dhaka Joint Economic Commission voiced the readiness of his ministry to participate in development projects in Bangladesh.

Foreign Fishing Trawler Impounded Near Khulna

BK2710020293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Bangladesh naval ship Shaheed Afsaruddin during a routine patrol in the Bay of Bengal yesterday impounded a foreign fishing trawler and arrested four of its [word indistinct] 13 crew members. The trawler was catching fish about 15 miles south of the (?Fairway Buoy) in Khulna. The seized trawler was escorted to Mangla and was handed over to the customs authorities, while the crew members were handed over to the police.

Repatriation of Tribal Refugees May Be Delayed

BK2910072793 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 22 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] Repatriation of Bangladeshi tribal refugees from Tripura state of India may be delayed due to a difference of opinion prevailing among the refugees. These differences are likely to be resolved by the third week of November. This was stated by MP Kalpa Ranjan Chakma who is the chairman of the committee formed by the Bangladesh Government for the repatriation and rehabilitation of the refugees, and MP Shahjahan Chowdhury who is a member of the committee formed by the government for resolving the Chittagong Hill Tracts tangle. They said this at a joint press conference yesterday [21 October] at the Ramgarh Rest House after returning from a six- day visit to India.

The MPs said that they had proposed to the Indian Government to begin repatriation from the first week of November. They held detailed discussions on the issue with representatives of the central government in Calcutta and with state government officials of Tripura in Agartala. The MPs added that the Indian authorities appear to be keen regarding repatriation of these refugees. They said that after visiting six refugee camps in Tripura and holding talks with the leaders of the refugees, it has come to their notice that a particular quarter is opposing repatriation. But a majority of the refugees living in these camps are willing to come back. The refugees have confidence in the efforts of the Bangladesh Government for restoring normalcy in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The MPs alleged that a particular quarter is obstructing the repatriation process by terrorizing the refugees.

Dhaka To Receive 1.5 Billion Taka Danish Grant

BK2810151093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1400 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Bangladesh will receive about 1.5 billion taka from Denmark as a grant next year. An agreed minute to this effect was signed at the end of the annual Bangladesh-Denmark bilateral developmental assistance consultative meeting in Dhaka today. The two-day consultative meeting reviewed various ongoing, approved and proposed projects aided by Denmark. Denmark has been assisting Bangladesh since its independence on a priority basis in rural development, women welfare, education, agriculture, housing, primary health care, development of water resources, and infrastructural development.

India

ICO Statement on Hazratbal Siege 'Distorted'

BK2710162293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] India has regretted that the statements sent to the president of the UN Security Council after the meeting of the ambassadors of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] in New York is completely distorted and unrelated to the real situation in Srinagar. The ambassador-level meeting of ICO was convened at the request of Pakistan on Monday to discuss the Hazratbal situation.

The spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that the letter and the statement sent by the Pakistan Press Relations makes no reference to militancy, terrorism, incitement of violence, or willful breaking of the law. The damage and the threat of damage to the shrine, its precincts, and the holy relics by the militants, and the fact that certain persons are being held as hostage inside the premises, are also not mentioned. The spokesman said New Delhi once again expresses its regret that the ICO appears to have been hijacked by Pakistan to serve its own agenda against

India. The spokesman called upon the ICO to remember how some of its members reacted and took steps in similar circumstances when holy places were occupied by terrorists.

Update on Developments at Hazratbal Standoff

Man Escapes From Inside Shrine

BK2810030293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, one more person escaped from the Hazratbal shrine yesterday evening. He is about 45 years old and he told official agencies that there are some foreigners among the militants holed up inside the shrine for the last 13 days. A deaf and dumb boy had come out from the shrine yesterday. With this, the total number of persons who have come out from the militants' custody from inside the shrine has gone up to eight since the 16th of this month.

The additional chief secretary, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, has said that the government would continue its efforts to resolve the Hazratbal tangle. Security vigilance around the shrine complex continues but no untoward incident has been reported. Meanwhile, the precautionary curfew in five police station areas of old Srinagar city continues.

Health of Occupants 'Deteriorating'

BK2810131693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1130 GMT 28 Oct 93

[By Izhar Wani]

[Text] Srinagar, Oct 28 (AFP)—Indian troops beefed up security in Kashmir Thursday as the army siege of Moslem guerrillas holed up in Hazratbal mosque dragged into a 13th day to threats of mass protests by the clergy.

Army and paramilitary reinforcements fanned out in Srinagar and other parts of the Kashmir valley following a call by the militant All-Party Freedom Conference for a march on the shrine here after Friday's weekly prayers.

Some 20 companies, nearly 2,000 men, of the Central Reserve Police Force took up positions after being airlifted to Srinagar, police sources said.

Official sources said "hectic" talks were underway with members of the clergy to persuade them to cancel the march.

Security was also tightened in areas surrounding the lakeside mosque, where a hair believed by Moslems to come from the beard of the Prophet Mohammad is preserved. A strict curfew was reimposed after an eight-hour break.

More than 50 heavily-armed guerrillas and about 70 civilians have been holed up in Hazratbal since October 15, surrounded by thousands of soldiers.

"We are ready to meet any eventuality," Kashmir police chief Manohar Nath Sabharwal said, as an uneasy calm prevailed in the valley on the eve of the Moslem sabbath with no end in sight to the mosque impasse.

"The law and order machinery has been put in top gear and all steps taken to prevent any outbreak of trouble tomorrow," said Sabharwal, who took over as police chief on the day the siege began.

He said security forces had been instructed to "restrain themselves and use minimum force" to avoid a recurrence of last Friday's bloodshed when border guards shot dead more than 50 people to foil a march on the shrine.

The Freedom Conference, an umbrella group of political parties and militant groups, set a 3:00 p.m. (0930 GMT) Friday deadline for the army to lift the siege.

Moulvi Abbas Ansari, a leader of the organisation, appealed to Moslems to head for Hazratbal if the government fails to heed the ultimatum. He also urged Kashmiris to prepare for a "jihad" (holy war) to end Indian rule.

Kashmir's chief priest Mirwaiz Omar Farooq said Moslems would "lock their houses and march on the shrine."

"All the responsibility for the consequences of the massive protests likely tomorrow will be borne by the government," he said. "You saw what happened last Friday ..."

Farooq said he had information that the health of the pilgrims trapped in the shrine was "deteriorating—going from bad to worse."

"They have no food. If something is not done, they may starve to death," the clergyman said. "The pilgrims do not want to leave the shrine. They fear that if they come out, security forces may enter the shrine and desecrate it."

The Kashmir government on Thursday appealed to the militants to "see reason" and let the "captives" go.

Ghulam Kasturi, 45, a pilgrim who emerged from the mosque Wednesday night claiming to have escaped, said the civilians lacked food and blankets and had no freedom of movement within the the shrine.

He told officers during questioning that the militants had divided themselves into groups and taken positions in different parts of the complex, senior official Mehmood ur Rehman told reporters.

He said they had posted look-out men and moved heavy weapons into the four minarets around the main dome.

Rehman again ruled out a safe passage for the militants to resolve the standoff, saying: "The law will take its course." Government negotiator Wajahat Habibullah was continuing efforts to persuade the rebels to surrender, he said.

The official said "all kinds of difficulties" had prevented a speedy solution. Hardliners and "foreign mercenaries" among the militants were blocking a settlement, he said.

Meanwhile, residents stocked up on food and other essentials as shops reopened for business on a call by the clergy. Long queues were seen at butchers' shops and vegetable outlets.

Long curfews, general strikes and street protests have been the norm in Kashmir since Moslem militants launched their campaign for Kashmir's separation from India in 1989.

Pakistanis, Afghans in Shrine

BK2810130293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government will continue to follow its strategy of active persuasion and limited coercion of the militants inside the Hazratbal Shrine to solve the 13-day old tangle. Addressing a press conference in Srinagar today, the additional chief secretary, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, urged the holed-up militants to release innocent people without delay. Mr. Rahman said no demand for food or medicines has been made by the militants during the negotiations with the government representatives. He said one of the persons who came out of the shrine yesterday has disclosed that there were more militants than civilians inside the shrine. The director general of state police, Mr. M.N. Sabarwal, said all necessary steps will be taken by the government to maintain order in view of the reports that some groups may create disturbances tomorrow.

According to the latest information available to the authorities, there are about 60 militants occupying the Hazratbal shrine. These include a number of Pakistanis, including a major; and the Pakistan Inter-services Intelligence; apart from Idris, a senior JKLF [Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front] leader; and Salahuddin, the self-styled leader of the Hezbul Mojahedin. The report says there are also a number of Afghan mercenaries hiding inside the shrine.

Red Cross Team Enters Shrine

BK2810161493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Excerpts] In Srinagar, the middle-aged person, who escaped from the militants' custody inside the Hazratbal Shrine yesterday evening, has disclosed that they were about 75 persons inside the shrine and about 60 of them were militants. They included two Pakistanis and three to five Afghans. The sub area commander, Brigadier S.P.S. Kanwar, told newsmen that the description of weapons given by the person shows that there could be at least one universal machine gun, one sniper rifle, two pistols, and eight to 10 AK rifles inside the shrine. He said the person, who escaped from the shrine, belonged to Kupwara District but he had been working as a casual laborer in the Hazratbal area.

Latest information available to the authorities indicate that there are about 60 militants occupying the Hazratbal Shrine. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a four-member Red Cross team again went to the Hazratbal Shrine area this afternoon in pursuance of the state high court direction to report about the health and condition of the persons inside the shrine. Details about the visit are awaited.

Negotiations 'Intensified'

BK2910033093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, the four-member Red Cross team entered the Hazratbal Shrine yesterday evening and examined the health conditions there. The team examined 12 sick people. It will submit its report to the state High Court under whose direction it has gone inside the shrine.

The additional chief secretary of J & K [Jammu and Kashmir] government, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, told AIR [All India Radio] Srinagar correspondent that one more person came out of the shrine yesterday evening. He was taken to hospital following complaints of appendicitis pain. With this, nine persons have come out of the shrine so far.

The commissioner of Kashmir Division, Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, who is the main negotiator from the government side told our correspondent that process of negotiations with militants has been intensified with the involvement of some noted persons since yesterday evening. He said, he was hopeful of a solution to the tangle.

Meanwhile, curfew continues in Srinagar in the six police station areas. The director general, Mr. M.N. Saberval, has said that all measures for maintenance of peace and order have been taken. Government has appealed to the people to cooperate with the official agencies for maintaining peace.

'Fresh Initiatives' Taken

BK2910085093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Oct 93

[Text] Some fresh initiatives have been taken by the Jammu and Kashmir Government to resolve the Hazratbal tangle. The additional chief secretary, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, told newspersons in Srinagar a short while ago that there are firm indications that the crisis will be resolved very soon. He said the state government is going to realize its main objective of restoring the sanctity of the shrine and of the holy relics and ensuring the safety of innocent persons. Today's developments followed participation of some intermediaries in the negotiations.

The director general of police, M.N. Sabharwal, said that situation in Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir valley is normal today and no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere. Precautionary curfew is in force in Badgam town and in six police station areas of Srinagar city today.

Arrest of Pakistani Reveals ISI Involvement

BK2710132093 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 22 Oct 93 p 10

[By Mavendra Singh]

[Text] New Delhi—The arrest of Rajoullah Wan, a Pakistan national, on October 11 following an encounter with the Indian Army at Hanjishat in Baramulla district, has led to the acquisition of some interesting and revealing information for the agencies in their campaign against the militants.

A resident of Wazirabad, nea Gujranwala, Wan declared that he was trained at Al-Hamza neal Muzaffarabad, in Pakistani Kashmir. Led by four Pakistani guides, Wan's group of 28 infiltrated into the difficult Machal sector. The group split into two, and 18 were engaged by the army at Pohrupet.

This lot included five Pakistanis, all armed with AK-56 rifles, one general purpose and one universal machine gun and rocket launchers. The engagements at Hanjishat and Pohrupet are consequential for two reasons.

There is great significance in the fact that the group was commanded by a Major Ayub of the Pakistan Army's special forces, the Special Services Group (SSG). Ayub died in the encounter according to Wan. His death sources say, is yet to be confirmed.

And secondly, at the time of his capture, Wan was carrying a video camera, because it was his job to film material important to Inter Services Intelligence's (ISI) psychological operations (psy- ops) campaign. This would include residential properties on fire, demonstrations, or even encounters with the security forces.

The objective being to carefully manage visual records, for in the television age, psy-ops is greatly dependent on visual imagery.

Several important points emanate from the evidence collected so far. For one, the timing of the infiltration by Wan's group and the occupation of Hazratbal. It becomes clear that what is now happening in Srinagar is not an isolated episode.

Expecting the State to react as it had done six months ago, Kashmiri militants, their allies and masters pushed for higher stakes.

Secondly, the presence of the SSC in the Kashmir Valley is obvious. Wherever an ISI operation is underway, the SSG is certain to be inducted at some stage. The logic is operational experience and terrain familiarisation.

Pakistan has always been far more innovative in the deployment of its special forces than India, and it is indisputable that Ayub has not been the only SSG visitor, and that the Kashmir Valley is not the only destination.

As the Indian Army's winter offensive gets underway, a greater, and more direct, Pakistani involvement is only to be expected. Their need is to maintain a momentum that matches the summer months, hence, ISI and SSG personnel are directing operational groups from the ground. The changing pattern of encounters is a pointer to this fact.

Radically different firing and handling of weapons by the engaging groups, and the willingness to keep contact with the army for longer periods, are the most obvious examples of a non-Kashmiri presence in the groups. Most important of all, however, is the impasse in the Hazratbal siege.

Simply going by the past actions, it is well nigh certain that Kashmiris are not the only armed men inside the shrine complex. For given the quality of their training and motivation, Kashmiri groups do not have the skills to persist with a siege of this kind.

Editorial Comments on Arrest

BK2710132493 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 22 Oct 93 p 8

[Editorial: "A Crucial Case"]

[Text] The arrest of Amanullah Khan, the leader of the so- called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, is an important landmark in the fight against international terrorism. Interpol and the Belgian Special Police, which arrested him in Brussels on Tuesday have done a splendid job in apprehending the man involved in the murder of Mushirul Haq, Vice-Chancellor of Kashmir University, Ravindra Mhatre, the Indian Consul in Birmingham, and several other Indians in the last few years. The Government of India on whose plea Interpol had issued a warrant of arrest against Khan, has now been called upon to elaborate the charges against him in a Belgian court. His extradition to this country as requested by the Government will depend upon the efficiency with which the case for such action is made out in the court.

This is a two-fold task. First, the Government will have to entrust the case to an exceptionally competent lawyer well-versed in the ramifications of international crime related to political issues. Secondly, the Indian Government's own investigation experts will have to prove their worth. They have left much to be desired in the handling of financial scandals like Bofors. They were perhaps handicapped by the suspected involvement of those who wielded power in New Delhi in these cases of corruption. There will be no such complication in convincing the Belgian court of the genuineness of the charges against Amanullah Khan. However, every precaution will have to be taken against even a hint of bungling in the preparation of the case for his extradition. In the final analysis what is involved is a highly sensitive political issue.

Since the case is bound to affect the Kashmir question, it must be remembered that Pakistan will go all out to block Khan's extradition. Note, for instance, the most intriguing part of the sequence ot events leading up to his arrest. This is the prompt recall of the Belgian Ambassador in Islamabad for having issued a 150-day visa to Khan on October 4. The Belgian Foreign Ministry has been commendably candid in disclosing that the envoy committed this "professional error" although Khan was on a list of persons not entitled to visas and this list was supplied to all Belgian missions abroad. How is it that the mission in Pakistan's capital failed to refer to this list before granting a visa to Khan? Did the Belgian Ambassador allow himself to be manipulated by the government of Pakistan? The ostensible purpose of Khan's visit to Brussels was to attend a conference on Kashmir organised by the European Parliament's Socialist Group. Many in this group, especially the British Labour Party members, are known to be strongly biased against India. Islamabad clearly had a vital interest in enabling Khan to attend the conference. India cannot afford to fail to make the most of Interpol's achievement in nabbing Khan.

Foreign Firms Warned on Expensive Power Projects

BK2710122093 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 22 Oct 93 p 13

[Text] The Government will not allow foreign investors to set up expensive power projects, pass on the resulting burden to the consumer and indulge in profiteering, according to Power Minister N. K. P. Salve.

Salve delivered this warning here on Thursday while briefing reporters about the persistent efforts being made by his Ministry to attract foreign investment. He said: "We will not allow anyone to take us for a ride."

Referring to the fresh set of demands made by potential foreign investors to get higher returns, he said that they were hard negotiators and we were not soft decision-makers. The Government had to keep in view the tariff which could he borne by the consumer while continuing dialogue with them.

The attractive policy for private sector participation in power sector provides for 16 per cent post-tax return on networth, the highest profitability for any administered sector. It also provides for incentives for operational efficiency under two-part tariff. In the 1993-94 budget, the Government had granted five-year tax holiday to new power projects and also reduced the customs duty on project imports.

Notwithstanding this, the foreign investors have demanded increase in the depreciation rate from the present level of 5.6 per cent for making special appropriations to repay the interest on borrowings. They have also demanded incentives for exceeding plant load factor of 68.5 per cent under the two-part tariff. The Government had left this issue open.

Salve described the latter issue as a problem in tariff formula and said that his Ministry could not take a rigid stand on this issue. This would be settled through negotiations on case-to-case basis. He said that the Government was also considering an experts' committee recommendations for modifying or substituting the two-part tariff formula.

Asked why was the Government not finalising the policy package and giving the investors an option to take or leave it, he said this issue should be left to the Government. He told reporters not to ask any further questions on the policy dialogue.

The Minister pointed out that the foreign investors were tempted to put up expensive project proposals as the entire cost was covered by the administered profitability system.

Asked whether the Government would direct all project promoters to procure equipment and services through competitive bidding to check over-invoicing and thus also give BHEL [Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd] an opportunity to offer its equipment, he said that his ministry was aware of all solutions and would also consider this suggestion.

Salve briefed reporters on the discussions he had with British and American investors and bankers as well as the World Bank during his recent visit to these two countries. He said the visit had resulted in fresh offers for creation of 4000 MW capacity. He, however, refused to disclose the names of companies which had submitted these offers. The Government had so far received 68 proposals for an aggregate capacity of 28,000 MW involving an investment of Rs [rupees] 86,000 crore. Of these, seven projects were on the fast track having secured all approvals.

Describing the foreign investors' response as encouraging, he admitted that they were facing certain difficulties, including arranging financing packages. These were only teething troubles. "Once we get into the momentum, investors will come," he added.

Pointing out that other countries were competing with India for foreign investment, he said that power situation was not going to improve without the flow of money from abroad. "Unless funds are coming, we can't do anything," he said.

Referring to the World Bank's renewed threat to cancel loans to NTPC [National Thermal Power Corporation] and other utilities for the country's failure to reduce the mounting arrears of SEBs [State Electricity Boards], the Minister said these loans were cancelled, it would not only be calamity for the borrowers but also for the entire power sector. The Government would lose its credibility and the foreign investors would not invest.

Salve deplored the Cargill's episode. Cargill, an American commodities giant having influence the world over, should not have been "hounded out like this" It just wanted to set up an export-oriented common salt project in Gujarat.

Impact of Bhutto Win on Kashmir Issue Viewed

BK2810143193 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 16 Oct 93 p 5

[Article by Suresh Dugar]

[Text] Srinagar, 16 Oct—The Kashmir extremists and Muslim fundamentalists are unhappy about the victory of Benazir Bhutto's party—which does not like confrontation with India—in the recent parliamentary elections in Pakistan. The Kashmir extremists expected the Pakistan Muslim League [PML], headed by Nawaz Sharif, to get the majority of votes. But the results were contrary to this. The PML won 72 seats, whereas the Pakistan People's Party, led by Benazir Bhutto, got 86 seats. Benazir Bhutto, who secured 86 seats, has a favorable atmosphere to form a government with the help of small parties and independents. The extremists were disappointed because they expected that if Nawaz Sharif became prime minister again, he would pump life into the Kashmir problem.

Professor Javed Ahmad, from a college in Srinagar, said Nawaz Sharif is a sincere friend of the Kashmiri people. Only during his tenure did the Kashmir issue receive overwhelming support from Pakistan and come to the attention of the international community. Because Benazir Bhutto wants to establish cordial relations with India, she cannot take a solid stand on the Kashmir issue.

A student said that the Kashmiri people very anxiously observed the election results in Pakistan and were disappointed to find no substantial change in the situation. He said further that only when a popular government comes to power in Pakistan can meaningful talks be held with India on the Kashmir issue, saving those of us living in the grip of turmoil. Bhutto cannot take a strong stand on the Kashmir issue. She will form a government amid stiff confrontation at home, and will only concentrate on saving that government.

While public opinion follows these lines, a journalist who spoke on the condition of anonymity said the lack of an absolute majority by any party in the Pakistani general elections would create an extraordinary situation in the Kashmir problem. Because a minority government will be formed in Islamabad, the ruling party will try to save the government, whereas the opposition will try to topple it while intensifying the Kashmir issue in a bid to attract people's attention. Hence, it is possible that a major war will break out in Kashmir.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the 20-year-old religious leader, said we expect Pakistan to continue extending its support on the Kashmir issue. A consensus on the Kashmir problem should be created in Pakistan, and then talks should be held with India to find a lasting solution to the issue.

Circles close to Pakistan's Jamaat-i-Islam Party have said that the party's crushing defeat in the general elections is a big blow to pro-Pakistan extremists and Muslim fundamentalists.

Meanwhile, the Army has intensified its operations against the foreign mercenaries working for the Kashmir extremists. It shot more than 60 mercenaries dead over the last few days. On 6 October, troops also killed six Afghan mercenaries and one Pakistan extremist who were hiding in the thick jungles of Kashmir. Indian military circles say that all they were trained in Pakistan. The circles further say that according to official estimates, more than 3,000 foreign mercenaries are working for several extremist organizations, including the pro-Pakistan Hezbul Mojahedin and Harkatul Mojahedin. They are living in various parts of Kashmir, including Doda District, which has several valleys and hills. A majority of the mercenaries are from Afghanistan. The Army is trying to catch them dead or alive. They are experts in warfare because of the continuing war in Afghanistan over the last 10 years. Besides the Afghans, there are mercenaries from Sudan, the Arabian countries, and Pakistan in Kashmir.

The Kashmir extremists have been psychologically affected by the killing of these mercenaries, especially those from Afghanistan. They are venting their feelings by forcing general strikes as a mark of revenge for these killings. The killing of foreign mercenaries, however, boosts the morale of the troops engaged in anti-extremist operations.

Maritime Accord Signed With Burma, Thailand

BK2710134293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] India and Myanmar [Burma] and Thailand have signed an agreement on maritime boundary. The agreement signed in New Delhi today determines the tri junction point in the Andaman Sea, equidistant from the nearest points of these countries. It is subject to ratification of the three governments.

Further on Visit by Netherlands Prime Minister

Singh, Rao Meet With Lubbers

BK2710163493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] New Delhi has described attempts by Pakistan to internationalize the Kashmir issue as nullifying the Simla agreement, which has kept peace for 21 years. The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, conveyed this to the visiting Dutch prime minister, Mr. Ruud Lubbers, in New Delhi today.

In response to Mr. Lubbers' request for access to human rights organizations, Mr. Dinesh Singh said that the Government of India has already expressed its willingness in this regard. It has also initiated a dialogue with various organizations, including the International Red Cross Committee. Briefing newsmen, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the two leaders discussed a variety of regional and international issues.

Later, the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and Mr. Lubbers held talks lasting about an hour. Mr. Narasimha Rao expressed satisfaction at the level of bilateral cooperation and hoped that the interaction between the industrialists and businessmen of the two countries will lead to enhanced economic cooperation.

Addressing the captains of Indian industries, the visiting prime minister of Netherlands commended India for its ongoing economic reforms, which has drawn positive attention of the industrialized world. Mr. Lubbers said these reforms are showing results and the entrepreneurs have recognized the opportunities being offered by India.

Earlier during the day, Mr. Ruud Lubbers was accorded a ceremonial reception in the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house].

Rao Hosts Banquet

BK2810050093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] India has called for good-neighborliness to overcome the problems of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism. Hosting a banquet in honor of the visiting Netherlands prime minister, Mr. Ruud Lubbers, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said New Delhi has always tried to improve relations with its neighbors in South Asia. The primary objective is to have a region where the interests of all countries are promoted to bring them together. The prime minister said India also looks forward to a cooperative and mutually reinforced relationship with an integrated Europe in the wake of the historic Maastricht Treaty. He said this could provide a vital input into the global quest for peace, security, and development. Mr. Narasimha Rao also invited the Dutch business community to participate in India's economic growth.

Reciprocating the sentiments expressed by Mr. Narasimha Rao, the Dutch prime minister, Mr. Lubbers, described the Indo- Netherlands ties as an example of a North-South bridge.

Sharma, Lubbers Hold Talks

BK2810091693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] India and the Netherlands have expressed the view that the traditional ties between the two countries need to be further strengthened in terms of greater economic interaction. During the talks, lasting about half an hour, the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and the visiting Dutch prime minister, Mr. Ruud Lubbers, agreed that there is scope for greater academic cooperation also between the two countries, including the study of Sanscrit in the Netherlands. Mr. Lubbers, who called on the president, gave a review of the process of economic integration in Europe through the European Community. He said his country can be an important partner in India's economy and work as a gateway to Europe.

Lubbers Leaves After 'Useful' Visit

BK2810150493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] The visiting Dutch prime minister has called for closer India-Europe cooperation for promoting peace, freedom, and justice. Delivering the Nehru Memorial Lecture in New Delhi today, Mr. Ruud Lubbers said India occupies the key position in the South Asian region. Complimenting the Narasimha Rao government for its economic reforms, he said India is a rapidly growing economy with an enormous pool of sophisticated scientists and technicians.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, the Dutch prime minister, Mr. Lubbers, said that the purpose of his visit was to strengthen relations between the two countries. He said his visit will intensify economic relations not only at the government level but also at the private level.

Netherlands has expressed the view that the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan can be solved through bilateral consultations. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the Dutch foreign minister, Mr. Kooijmans, said terrorists have always exploited the situation and any government should be against their activities. He said he had fruitful discussions with his Indian counterpart, Mr. Dinesh Singh, on areas of mutual concern. They discussed remodelling of the United Nations and expansion of the Security Council, disarmament, nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, and a comprehensive test ban treaty, besides the situation in the region.

The prime minister of Netherlands, Mr. Lubbers, has described his visit to India as useful. Talking exclusively to All India Radio at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this evening, he said Dutch businessmen had very good discussions with their Indian counterparts and some concrete results will come out in Dutch investment in India.

Earlier, a warm send off was accorded to the visiting dignitary. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao and several of his cabinet colleagues were present at Rashtrapati Bhavan on the occasion. The Netherlands has appreciated the comprehensive measures taken by India on the human rights front. The visiting Netherlands foreign minister, Mr. Peter Kooijmans, conveyed this to the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, during the 40-minute long meeting in New Delhi today. Mr. Chavan apprised him about the constitution of the National Human Rights Commission and the government's commitment to the cause of human rights. He also apprised the Netherlands minister about the problems faced by India due to terrorist activities sponsored by a neighboring country.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Returns From Central Asia

LD2810173193 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani concluded his visit to five Central Asian and Caucasian countries and arrived here this evening. Before leaving the Azerbaijan capital of Baku, the president said in a press conference that Tehran will do all it can to end the war and settle disputes between the two neighboreing republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran has mobilized its facilities to assist and accommodate the Azeri refugees. He stressed that Tehran will continue its humanitarian assistance to the Azeri refugees in future.

"We consider the Azeri refugees as our war refugees and we are ready to host them inside Iran. However, we prefer them to stay within their own territories so that they can better attain their goals—ending the war and defending their homeland. This is because we have witnessed that those refugees who have fled their countries as a result of war, such as the Palestinians, have not been able to return to their homeland," the president told reporters.

The Iranian president also expressed concern on insecurity caused by advance of the Armenian forces in the Azeri territory. "The Islamic Republic will never tolerate insecurity near its borders."

President Rafsanjani further added that he was fully satisfied with his talks with the officials of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan during his 11-day visit. He dismissed biased reports alleging Iran of fostering domination on regional countries including Azerbaijan. "On the contrary we favor close ties and friendly relations with all regional countries," President Rafsanjani stressed.

President Geydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan speaking in the same press conference described President Rafsanjani's visit as fruitful and constructive and a new chapter in Tehran-Baku relations. Aliyev expressed hope that Iran's mediation efforts to end the Baku-Yerevan conflict will be successful.

Interviewed on Central Asian Trip

NC2910080593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Oct 93

["Exclusive" interview with Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] What was the most important result of your visit to the four countries in Central Asia and Azerbaijan?

[Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful. This was a long trip, and we visited many places. First, we had to return the visits that the presidents of these countries made to Iran; some of them visited us often. The basic issue was to establish more serious and more comprehensive contact with the area.

This area is extremely important in the world and in our own region. The five countries that we visited have a total area two and a half times that of Iran and a population almost equal to Iran's. They have vast resources and circumstances there are very special.

We considered various aspects during this visit and, thank God, we covered almost everything we had in mind. First, it was important for us to get to know these countries, their peoples, and their officials better. Our delegation's composition helped to achieve this.

One aspect of our visit concerned Muslims who were separated from Islam for over 70 years and who have now returned. A presence among these people is extremely useful and necessary for us.

There were also the cultural, economic, and technical aspects of the visit. I will refer to each one. Of course, the mass media have reported on these visits in the past few days and the correspondents who were with us have definitely gathered good information and will inform the people later. I will only briefly touch on these topics.

From the popular point of view, we should say that the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys an extremely good position in these countries. In several countries, we had the opportunity to meet crowds of people—in some places in Uzbekistan, in many places in Turkmenistan, and in Baku in Azerbaijan. Frankly, the people there are like our own and are interested in us and in the Islamic revolution.

An important point here is that all the poisonous propaganda disseminated during this period in a bid to portray a bad image of our revolution and to intimidate people when it comes to the thoughts of the Islamic revolution has been almost ineffective and may even have backfired. It has made the people more interested.

The scenes in these countries were similar to those in our cities that have a high population of hezbollahis—both in respect of the great crowds and the sentiments expressed. Probably, the Voice and Vision [radio and television company] has or will report this.

For example, in Samarkand, we did not plan to meet the people. We drove quickly to the historic sites. But the people learned that we would attend a ceremony at the Cultural Center of Ancient Iranians. We were supposed to go there at noon and say our prayers, but had no time to do so. We decided to go in the afternoon, when we would apologize for not having gone earlier. The people realized we would go in the afternoon, and such a great crowd gathered at the square that both Uzbek President Islam Karimov and I were surprised. We realized the people's sentiments were so sincere that we descended from the car without security and spoke to the people who had gathered there. He was surprised and so was I.

From cities such as Ashgabat, (Marv), Urgenchi, and (Dashshkhowz), through villages such as (Bagdarabad) and the town of (Kaka) on the border, to a village named after us, where a mosque was to be inaugurated, it was an extremely happy sight to see the people express their sentiments.

One of the most interesting things for me related to the propaganda against us concerning women, alleging that Iran has isolated women, does not like them, and does not want them to participate in society. Naturally, the women must have felt disappointed with us. But in the popular welcome, we saw the women expressing their feelings more than the men. Of course, we tried to make them understand that the propaganda against us is false. Sometimes, in some organizations that we visited, we saw the women trying to keep in the background. But we went to them and spoke to them to show them that the propaganda against us is false. We oppose licentiousness, but we accept women's presence in society. This was a very good sign that the propaganda against us has been ineffective, thank God.

Elsewhere, it became very clear that the propaganda against us is ineffective; in the cultural centers and universities, I saw that the most favored government and most favored way of thought in the places I visited was the Islamic revolution and Iran. I saw that the scientific and technical forces in these centers are strongly interested in us. I can cite a few examples. One benefit we reaped was to meet academicians in each of the five countries we visited. We went to their academies and met the cream of their scholars, extremely educated old men who form the scientific backbone of these countries and who have been in the scientific field since these countries were isolated. We were very happy to see these people express great interest in us and in our revolution. I don't know how much of this has been reported here. God willing, in future, reports of the texts of the speeches by these people will be broadcast for our people, then everyone will realize the ineffectiveness of all the propaganda by arrogance against us.

In Kyrgyzstan, our first meeting was with the intellectuals and artists. It was very interesting to see how they had taken the initiative and named themselves the Clerical Society. But when we went there and saw this society, we saw that it included musicians, poets, theater and movie performers, as well as clergymen, such as Friday imams and congregational imams. During our first meeting, they expressed their strongest sentiments toward the Islamic revolution. In a bid to surprise the audience and the correspondents, they had brought a horse, which is the dearest gift that can be given in Kyrgyzstan, which is famous for its horses, and hidden it behind the curtain. We were surprised. We didn't know what they were planning. They had tried something new to show their affection for Iran.

In Kyrgyzstan, we attended the large national university, where 14,000 students study under 3,000 academicians. They had very interesting things to say about Iran and the revolution. They said some things about me too, but an individual is not at all important. What was important for me was the revolutionary and Islamic aspect of their remarks.

In Turkmenistan, everyone—academicians and artists—gathered together. We had a very good meeting with academicians in Almaty. Their academy, according to their remarks, has 10,000 members, 5,000 of them scientists. They have a library, which they claimed has 6 million books and 40-50 years of experience. They had extremely good things to say about the revolution, the imam, our leader, and the benefits that our revolution has reaped. They expressed many wishes.

In Baku today, the scene at their academy was very pleasant. This can be a very good means for neutralizing propaganda by opponents and a good example for the Islamic revolution to set in these countries. As for religious affairs, we had an active approach toward the 'ulema and the clergymen; it is natural for them to feel in accord with us and to be interested in us.

Interesting things happened too. For example, in Uzbekistan, the parliament speaker accompanied us to the Transoceanic Department of their religious affairs office, and we heard a very good report on their activities. They said that 5,000 mosques are operating and they have 3,000 religious students. They offered very good figures that show their society and their officials are truly interested in religion.

In Kyrgyzstan, when we wanted to go to the mosque, we thought we would go there and just ask the people about their health. The president accompanied me inside the mosque. Now, this is very important: No security measures had been taken in the mosque. We entered and the large crowd inside was like our hezbollahi crowd. Religious students were also there. The president sat next to me on the ground, then he delivered a brief speech and said extremely important things from which much can be gleaned. He said the biggest blow inflicted on us by the communists during our isolation was to weaken our religion and that there could be nothing more harmful than to separate the people from their religion. He said that wherever religion does not reign, blackness does. We are discussing a president whose remarks are definitely placed under a microscope by those who are worried that religion is being revived in this region. This is what he said in the mosque in front of the 'ulema.

Wherever we went in the religious centers of the various countries, their presidents came with us, and they displayed humbleness in front of the 'ulema. The people treated them very kindly. So everything in the mass media that says they are afraid of religion is not true. Of course, religion there is not like what we in Iran think. People there were exposed to 70 years of antireligious teaching. No one spoke to them about praying, fasting, performing the Hajj pilgrimage, or personal and social issues. Many don't know how to pray. But they have a religious temperament and consider themselves to be linked with God, the Koran, and religion; these are the points we have in common.

The major part of our visits concerned business. One part included cultural and educational aspects and so on and the meetings [with the people] and the trips to historic sites were in the margin of our business. The talks we had with the presidents and ministers form another chapter. Details were recorded and will be placed at the disposal of officials. We held extremely good and serious discussions.

An important point I would like to highlight and one that all officials should follow up is that all these countries face a situation of polarity. They belonged to the south, Iran, and this area. Of course, when I say they belonged, I mean they were related. Sometimes, those countries were the center, sometimes, Iran was the center, and sometimes, both were centers. We have a common civilization. At the peak of Islam, Central Asia, including Khorasan, was the center of many sciences and arts and the personalities we are proud of they are proud of too—personalities such as Ibn Sina, Farabi, Baha'oddin Naqshbandi, Imam Bokhari, and Ganjavi. Anyone who makes us proud makes them proud.

The historic sites, mosques, and schools in Samarkand and Bukhara remind me of Esfahan. The square we saw in Samarkand is like Naqsh-e Jahan Square in Esfahan, but a little smaller. Even one of their large schools had the lion and sun emblem, which was our emblem before. All these are common points. Their glorious past is linked closely with Iran and our region.

When they were separated from this area, they joined Russia and the other Soviet countries to form a new group. They are attracted to our region, while their true needs link them with the other region. As an example, I can cite our plants in Esfahan, Tabriz, Tehran, Shiraz and so on. All these plants are linked together. It is an economy where one area complements the other. Agriculture in one area complements industry elsewhere and animal husbandry somewhere else. The same happens in the Central Asian republics.

In Tashkent, we inspected a large aircraft industry, which has 40,000 employees and manufactures the wings and bodies of planes while the engines are built in Russia and Ukraine. These things cannot be separated. In Kazakhstan, in (Oktay) Port, we inspected their nuclear power plant and their uranium plant. The uranium they produce should go to Russia and back—twice—before being used as fuel by the power plant. This is how they are linked with each other. Turkmenistan's cotton is used by Russian plants and other places.

All these have linked these republics with the other side; their routes to the world, to Europe, and to other countries that can consume their products are through Russia. They badly need to open up a new field, find a competitor, and have a choice, without being forced to sell their goods cheap to one consumer only. Here, there is no place but Iran for this purpose. In addition to the moral interests they have in Iran, their only way toward salvation—and they say this very clearly; they even tell the Russians in their speeches—is through Iran. They must find a way to the world through Iran. We also welcome this.

Among our important tasks was to look into the fields of cooperation that can be set up between us and them, cooperation such as road, sea, and air transport, activating the railway and transport in the Caspian Sea, and cooperating in the Caspian Sea, which, incidentally, is something like the Persian Gulf as far as resources are concerned. We also looked into commerce. I saw an exhibition in Almaty involving private Iranian entrepreneurs. All the exhibitors, without exception, said that they had sold a lot in advance. This is how attractive our products are for them. They too have products that we find attractive. They want to separate themselves from the old monopolistic areas and join another place. We want to work with them and this is a new field for us.

We signed about 60 documents in these five countries. Each document is a door to cooperation. Of course, not all these will be implemented rapidly; the ground to implement them should be prepared gradually, and I ask all our officials, our private sector, and everyone to strive to ensure that the work that has started won't decline again. We have carried out the necessary political activity. The mistrust they wanted to create no longer exists. We have given them as much assurance as possible; this can be seen from the discussions we held in our official meetings and from our interviews. We know what they need and they know what we need. What we need now is work.

The need is greatest in Azerbaijan, where the situation is serious. There, the people have been shaped with the same religion as ours and their interest in the Islamic revolution has been seen.

During the war, they realized that we truly sympathize with them and that no one else does anything that is right for them. When we went to Baku, the Armenians had reoccupied sensitive areas in south Azerbaijan and were inflicting pressure on Zangelan. From there, we sent a telephone message to the Armenian president through the foreign minister. Fortunately, their approach was good, and they accepted our message and declared a cease-fire. This was an important achievement, and we should do something so that the cease-fire is not violated.

The people of Baku truly expressed the greatest friendship and affection during our contacts. The streets we passed were lined with people who waited hours for our delegation to pass. We were welcomed by shouts of God is great and Islamic slogans. The government now lets religious centers operate and good things are being done. We have a bank operating there, and many of the facilities in Azerbaijan are coordinated with us. We should, God willing, cooperate with them.

I am extremely pleased with the outcome of these visits. During our private meetings, great respect was expressed for the imam and for the esteemed leader of the revolution. They expressed their great affection and referred with great admiration to the ideas and thoughts they see in the guidance and directives issued here. These are the values and assets that the Muslims enjoy.

We don't bother others. We cooperate with them, and there is no reason for anyone to worry or think that someone will be harmed by our cooperation. We want everyone to cooperate, and we too will carry out our duties.

God willing, I will address the people further on the outcome of the visit at later dates.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Commentary on President's Tour of Central Asia

LD2910000193 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1700 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Announcer's remarks on weekly "Roundtable Program" on visit by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Central Asian republics]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] An assessment of the results of the tour undertaken by the president the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] to the four Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan demonstrates that the tour will be a source of fruitful effects in the future of the region. The expansion of regional cooperation and the deepening of bilateral ties was one of the specific axes [mehvar] which were followed during the tour. This axis was especially important because, in the opinion of analysts of international issues, the regional powers that are formed by the expansion of cooperation between two or several states have a special place in the new world order and play a significant role in the equations of power. Agreements achieved during the president's visit to five regional states promise the creation of such a formation.

A realistic review of the potential and actual capabilities of the six states of Iran, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Azerbaijan also demonstrates that the expansion of intraregional ties and the securing of mutual requirements reduce reliance on outsiders and increase their power to create roles for themselves in the trend of international events.

The existence of a regional cooperation organization, called ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], offers another appropriate basis which makes possible a further expansion of the power of the composition of the regional states and depicts a fitting place in a future world order for the Muslim nations of the region.

Another issue that became clearer than before during the IRI president's tour of the Central Asian states and Azerbaijan is the historical ties between the Muslim regional nations and the developing trend of the revival of their Islamic identity. The glorious popular welcome during various stages of the tour that was accorded to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the representative of the Islamic-revolutionary system of Iran, demonstrated that the common aspects of religion and culture of the regional nations—despite the negative propaganda by the world media, especially Western media—are following a natural route with a deepening trend [as heard], and, through the appearance of opportunities and appropriate bases, attain more specific manifestations. The West, after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, has always tried to weaken the grounds for a closeness between the Central Asian states and Tehran by creating a fear of the IRI and to prevent the spiritual influence of the Islamic revolution among the regional nations by depicting a disturbed picture of Iran.

Despite all those efforts, the extraordinary welcome accorded to the president of the IRI by the people demonstrated that the West has been thwarted in realizing those objectives, and that religious, cultural, and historical principles have bound together the fate of the nations of the region.

The president's trip to the four Central Asian countries as well as Azerbaijan can also be studied from another perspective.

Western countries, headed by America, have been trying for many years to isolate Tehran in regional and international organizations in order to pressure the Islamic Republic of Iran.

To achieve this goal, Washington has used various methods, including overt and covert diplomacy, threats, and financial promises in order to maintain weak relations between Iran and other countries.

However, the result of the IRI president's trip proves that these continuous efforts have failed and that other countries pay serious attention to Iran as the most powerful country of the Persian Gulf.

The warm welcome given to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani by the Central Asian countries as well as by Azerbaijan, and their insistence to expand relations with Tehran is an indication that the countries of the region and the world seek in their foreign policy to expand relations with IRI—which enjoys a unique geopolitical position and adopts principled policies.

In short, it could be said that the president's trip to the five countries of Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Azerbaijan was the high point in regional cooperation—the positive outcome of which will significantly change the face of the region.

Commentary Urges Algeria To Stop Suppression

LD2810205493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Algerian Radio has recently announced that a court situated 800 kilometers east of Algeria [as heard] has sentenced to death 18 armed Islamists. [passage omitted]

According to AFP, since the beginning of this October, as the result of clashes between police forces and Islamists in Algeria, the number of those killed by police has reached 77, and also within the same period of time 10 security force members, including an Army officer and a police officer have also lost their lives. Yesterday Amnesty International in a statement announced that the Algerian Government in the current year has sentenced hundreds of the people in the country to death and executed more than 20 others in an unfair trial. The statement added that those confessions had been made through torture. During the same time, more than 300 people have been sentenced to death in Algeria with 26 of them executed and thousands of others sentenced to long-term gaol by the special courts. [passage omitted]

At any rate, the current conditions in Algeria indicate that ignoring the realities and resorting to repressive and violent acts not only have not led to the results favored by the Algerian Government and the physical elimination of the opposition, but they have also made the country encounter more sophisticated problems every day.

Although some foreign powers in view of their antagonism toward the Islamic current have endeavored to aid the Algerian Government to continue the rout through supporting the Algerian rulers, yet the majority of informed observers believe that the continuation of such a method will entail, in the long run, nothing but defeat and bloodletting. Therefore, it seems that the reverse of the current policies and the acceptance of the existing realities in the Algerian community, and dealing equally with various groups and factions seems to be the only way, with the help of which the Algerian rulers may make their way out of the present deadlock and see before them a bright future.

Rebel Radio on Cuts in Regional Radio

NC2810110893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The Democratic Party of Kordestan Committee in Mahabad reports that, on the basis of a preplanned program and in a bid to inflict more national oppression on the oppressed peoples in Iran, Hashemi—the director of the Iranian radio and television and the president's brother—recently ordered a 20-percent decrease in the regional programs of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. For example, Radio Mahabad, which broadcast four to five hours of programs in Kurdish each day, has reduced its programs at Hashemi's orders.

We should also point out that the Islamic Republic, which pays great lip service to defending the peoples of Iran, cannot tolerate even the few regional programs that existed during the Pahlavi regime and has ordered a 20 percent reduction in these programs. Naturally, this is the first step, and the possibility of more cuts cannot be ruled out.

Dezful Majles Deputy on 'Confronting' America

NC2810120693 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Oct 93 p 7

[Article by Dezful Majles Deputy Dr. Sadra]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Among the most important issues in the United States' psychological war against Iran are human rights and the export of the Islamic revolution. Therefore, in an assessment of how to generally confront this ploy, we must first assess the situation. To confront this situation we should first and foremost organize ourselves as we did during the war and clearly delineate our policies.

As far as confronting America's hegemonistic policies are concerned, we should point out a fundamental issue: If we want to succeed in this struggle, we should first be successful at home. The best policy is the "policy of peace at home and war abroad," which of course we do not endorse. From the point of view of Islam and the revolution, the correct thing is to adopt a policy of peace at home and correct relations abroad, while preparing for a strong confrontation with the outside world. [passage omitted]

In foreign policy, it is important to clarify our strategies. One of these strategies is confrontation with the United States. Confrontation with the United States does not merely mean a negation of the United States, but demands that we unite the Islamic countries as much as we can and decrease our dependence on the United States. This is the best way to confront the United States.

Our approach should not be one of merely saying, Death to America. This slogan is based on immense zeal, but our relations with the various institutions and countries in the world should help us form a situation that will benefit the Islamic movement and weaken America's intentions.

Another point we should consider when compiling our strategies is converting these strategies and final objectives into policy. Objectives should be like a pyramid and culminate in a peak, which is the weakening of the United States. [passage omitted]

Four tools are needed to advance our foreign policy and prevent or confront infiltration by other foreign policies. These are:

1. Economic and commercial tools;

2. Political tools;

3. Cultural and social tools, including propaganda;

4. The military tool.

One of the major problems in foreign relations is that the necessary coordination does not exist among these four tools. [passage omitted]

If we want to confront America and its various political ploys, we must first identify these ploys and then strengthen our grounds at home. In other words, we have to achieve peace and compromise among all the Islamic forces under the command of the esteemed leader and within an Islamic military network. Outside the country, we should take the initiative on the international scene, and we should not forget that the Americans' stance is destructive and that our stance must be constructive and aimed at saving humanity and mankind. [passage omitted]

Nepal

Boundary Accord With Burma, Thailand Signed

BK2710154393 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] An agreement between the Government of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], the Government of the Republic of India, and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand determining the tri-junction point between the three countries in the Andaman Sea was signed in New Delhi on 27 October 1993. The agreement was signed by U Win Lwin, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Government of the Union of Myanmar; Dr. Srikant Sharma, joint secretary of the Government of India; and Dr. Praphat Narinthrangkun, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The agreement—placing the tri-junction point between Myanmar, India, and Thailand in the Andaman Sea at the distance from the nearest points of Myanmar, India, and Thailand—is subject to ratification by the three governments.

The three parties to the agreement are of the view that the conclusion of this agreement will further strengthen existing relations among the governments and peoples of Myanmar, India, and Thailand.

Japanese Grant To Repair Largest Power Plant

OW1510132193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1258 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct. 15 KYODO—Japan has agreed to grant Nepal 748 million yen to repair the kingdom's largest power plant, the Nepalese Government said Friday [15 October].

Japanese Ambassador Chuichi Ito and Nepalese Finance Secretary T.N. Pant signed an agreement for the grant on the same day.

Nepal will utilize the grant for replacement and maintenance of electromechanical parts at the Kulekhani power plant of Makawanpur, south of Kathmandu, the government said.

The plant was hit by monsoon floods last July leading to a drastic cut in supply of hydropower in the country.

Pakistan

Bhutto Demands Hazratbal Siege End 'Immediately'

BK2710164293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, won the vote of confidence from the National Assembly this evening. One hundred and twenty-two members voted for the motion in this connection, which was moved by the president of Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group, Mr. Hamid Nasir Chattha. The motion was seconded by the president of Jamhoori Watan Party, Nawab Azghar Bugti; the chief of the National Democratic Alliance, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan; and a former caretaker prime minister, Mir Balakh Sher Mazari.

Addressing the house after the vote, the prime minister demanded of India to immediately lift the siege of Hazratbal Shrine and enter into dialogue with Pakistan for solution of the Kashmir problem in accordance with the United Nations resolutions. Ms. Benazir Bhutto appealed to the United Nations and the international community to take notice of the grave situation in occupied Kashmir before it goes from bad to worse and take steps for solution of this problem at the earliest.

The prime minister listed priorities of her government and said it has decided to provide relief to the affectees of cooperative societies and Taj Company. A strategy is being evolved to recover loans from defaulters, and the present crisis in the cotton sector is being resolved so as to provide relief to the farmers, [word indistinct] and textile sector. She said civic amenities will be improved and steps taken to take justice to the doorstep of the people. Rights of the minorities would be fully protected. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said, for political stability, there was a need to tackle the Eighth Amendment. The government was preparing a bill for its repeal and side by side amendments would be made in the Constitution in accordance with the wishes of the people. She sought the opposition's cooperation in this task.

Speaking after the vote of the confidence, the deputy parliamentary leader of the main opposition party, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group, Retired Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik, said they would support all positive actions of the government but would firmly oppose any action or (?education) that goes against the interest of the country.

Sharif Expresses Solidarity With Shrine Occupants

BK2810090093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 28 0800 93

[Text] The joint sitting of parliament began discussions this morning on the situation arising out of the massive human rights abuse by the Indian security forces and siege and desecration of the Dargah [shrine] Hazratbal in Srinagar. A motion to this effect was moved by the foreign minister, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari. In his opening statement, the foreign minister said the rapid escalation of brutalities and repression is a cause of gravest alarm to the people of Kashmir, Pakistan, and peace-loving people throughout the world. The catastrophe in Kashmir being witnessed now has never been seen before. He said the incident of siege of Hazratbal shrine is more alarming and called for an immediate end of the siege.

The foreign minister said the uprising in Kashmir has taken a universal character and the entire populace has risen to achieve their basic rights. He said the Indians have been trying to depict the Kashmiri struggle as the law and order problem, but warned that the more force the Indians use, the greater will be the expression of the struggle in Kashmir.

The foreign minister made it clear that Pakistan is only offering political, moral and diplomatic support to the just cause of the Kashmiri people and it would continue to offer the support. He explained that this support of Pakistan is in line with UN resolutions, which are binding on both India and Pakistan and must be implemented. The foreign minister invited the leaders of political parties for talks with the government on the Kashmir situation. He said the government would arrange a briefing on Kashmir situation for leaders of political parties and the parliament on the 2d of next month.

Expressing his serious concern over the tragic situation in occupied Kashmir, the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, said the liberation struggle being waged by Kashmiris is well within the parameters of the United Nations resolutions, human values, and fundamental rights. He said Kashmiris should be provided every possible political assistance to secure their right of self-determination. He urged the government to come out with an effective strategy to get an end to the siege of Hazratbal shrine and withdrawal of Indian forces from the valley.

The chief of Jamaat-i-Islami, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, said the struggle of the Kashmiri people was a national movement for liberation and no power can break the will of the nation. He also opposed Pakistan's entering into any dialogue with India on the issue unless India openly recognizes it as a disputed territory.

Nawaz Sharif Speaks at Anti-India Rally

BK2710150693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Total strike was observed in occupied Kashmir today in protest against the atrocities by occupation forces of India in contravention of UN resolutions. The day marks the intrusion of Indian occupation troops in 1947. The occupied valley remains in the grip of tension in the wake of the siege of Dargah [shrine] Hazratbal by Indian forces which entered the 12th day today. Markets and entire businessess remained closed in response to the call of all political parties and mojahedin leaders to express solidarity with the besieged people in Dargah Hazratbal. [passage omitted]

To mark the day, protest rallies were also held throughout Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan. In Muzaffarabad, all shopping centers and educational institutions remained closed. Protest processions were taken out in the city. The processionists were carrying placards and banners inscribed with slogans against the siege of Dargah Hazratbal. They chanted anti-India slogans and reiterated their resolve to sacrifice their lives for the right of self-determination. The procession terminated at the office of the UN military observer mission where a memorandum was handed over.

A big procession was taken out in Rawalpindi today. The president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan led the procession. The AJK prime minister, Sardar Qayyum, leader of opposition and president of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, some members of the National Assembly, and members of the AJK Assembly and Council also participated. The protest procession started from the mazar [tomb] of Kashmiri leader, Chaudhary Ghulam Abbas. Demonstrators carried banners and placards inscribed with slogans against India, against Indian occupation of the held valley, desecration of Dargah Hazratbal, and gross human rights violations. Addressing the rally, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif condemned the desecration and siege of Dargah Hazratbal by Indian troops. He said no amount of repression can suppress the struggle of the people of Kashmir. Kashmiris, he said, are bound to triumph. He said the siege of Dargah Hazratbal should come to an end immediately. The president of Azad Kashmir Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan said that the United Nations must play its role to enable the Kashmiri people to exercise their right of self-determination. This, he said, is the only way out to solve the Kashmir issue and to remove tension in the region. The processionists went to the office of UN Observers Mission and handed over a memorandum strongly condemning the continued siege of Dargah Hazratbal. It demanded immediate lifting of the siege of the shrine.

UN Urged To Press India on Siege, Kashmir Issue

BK2810144493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] To press for lifting of the siege of Dargah [shrine] Hazratbal, people from various walks of life staged a token hunger strike in Islamabad today. They included minority MNA [Member of National Assembly] Mr. J. Saliq, and member of the AJK council, Mr. Hamid Mufti. They urged the international community to pressurize India to accord the inalienable right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people. They said the continuing siege and desecration of Dargah Hazratbal negated the so-called secular posture of India.

Later, they visited the UN office and the Indian High Commission and presented memoranda, condemning the siege of the Dargah Hazratbal and calling for implementing United Nations resolution on Kashmir.

Foreign Minister 'Welcomes' Indian Talks Offer

BK2710144293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has said that the Commonwealth nations have expressed concern over the large-scale violations of human rights in occupied Kashmir. He was talking to newsmen in Islamabad today on return from Limassol after attending the Commonwealth Conference.

[Begin Leghari recording] Pakistan is deeply concerned at what is happening in and around Hazratbal mosque. In the backdrop of the Indian experience at the Golden Temple and the desecration and destruction of the Babri Mosque, Muslims all over the world are very anxious and they are alarmed at the manner in which Indian troops have surrounded the Hazratbal Mosque. During our talks with various heads of delegation, Ms. Benazir Bhutto and I raised these issues in particular and we found large measure of sympathy and anxiety even on their part because they are all aware that this Kashmir has become a flash point, that human rights are being violated on a massive scale. [end recording]

In reply to a question, the foreign minister said Pakistan welcomes the Indian offer for talks on Kashmir and other issues. He emphasized that India must lift the siege of Hazratbal, discontinue brutalization of Kashmiris, and reduce profiles of its forces in the held valley to make the talks purposeful.

'No Preconditions' for Meaningful Dialogue

BK2810141893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Pakistan says India must agree to discuss the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir in its entirety with no preconditions before a meaningful dialogue for resolution of outstanding issues. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, a foreign office spokesman said India should also progressively reduce tension in held Kashmir by lifting the siege of Dargah [Shrine] Hazratbal as the first step and reduce significantly its forces in occupied Kashmir. The spokesman said in an attempt to divert world attention from human rights violations in occupied Kashmir, firing by India on civilians across the Line of Control has been continuing and has intensified for the past few months.

'Conducive Conditions' Needed

BK2810161093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Pakistan has asked India to agree to discuss the Kashmir issue in its entirety without any preconditions and to end the tension, lift the siege of the Hazratbal shrine, and significantly reduce the number of its troops in occupied Kashmir. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman while briefing newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon.

Referring to Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's invitation to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for talks, the spokesman said that before fixing a program for such a dialogue it is necessary that India creates conducive conditions for the talks and proves its sincerity by improving the human rights situation in the occupied Kashmir. He said that the continued siege of the Hazratbal shrine is a cause of concern for the Pakistani people and it indicates that India is pursuing a policy of crushing the Kashmiris' freedom movement by use of brutal force. He said that killing of unarmed people protesting against the siege of the shrine is a matter of deep anguish and indignation for Pakistan.

The spokesman expressed concern over the increasing incidents of Indian firing from across the Line of Control on the civilian people and said that these actions are aimed at diverting the world attention from the siege of the Hazratbal shrine and the human rights violation in the occupied Kashmir. He said that Indian troops' firing along the Line of Control has increased during the last few days. He said that Indian claims that skirmishes are going on along the Line of Control and that infiltrators are trying to cross the Line of Control are aimed at diverting people's attention from the Hazratbal shrine.

He said that the Pakistani Embassy in Brussels is maintaining contacts with Amanullah Khan, president of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, and the Belgian authorities so as to secure his release. He said that if India was expecting that the arrest of Amanullah Khan would help divert attention from the Kashmir issue at the round table conference of the European Parliament's Socialist Group, then it has badly failed in achieving this objective. He said that [words indistinct] has proved that the world community has acknowledged the need for an immediate and peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue and world interest in this regard is ever increasing.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said that Pakistan will send 1,500 soldiers to Somalia to consolidate UN operations there.